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Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

Letter dated 1 June 2011 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to attach herewith the Moscow Declaration, adopted following the First Global Ministerial Conference on Healthy Lifestyles and Non-communicable Disease Control (see annex). I should be grateful if you would have the Declaration circulated as a document of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 115.

(*Signed*) Vitaly **Churkin**

11-36585 (E) 080611 130611

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Annex to the letter dated 1 June 2011 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

First Global Ministerial Conference on Healthy Lifestyles and Non-communicable Disease Control

Moscow, 28 and 29 April 2011

Moscow Declaration

Preamble

We, the participants in the First Global Ministerial Conference on Healthy Lifestyles and Non-communicable Disease Control, gathered in Moscow on 28 and 29 April 2011;

I

Express appreciation for the leading role of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Government of the Russian Federation in the preparation and holding of the Ministerial Conference;

II

Recognize that the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standards of physical and mental health cannot be achieved without greater measures at the global and national levels to prevent and control non-communicable diseases;

III

Acknowledge the existence of significant inequities in the burden of non-communicable diseases and in access to non-communicable disease prevention and control, both between countries, as well as within countries;

IV

Note that policies that address the behavioural, social, economic and environmental factors associated with non-communicable diseases should be rapidly and fully implemented to ensure the most effective responses to these diseases, while increasing the quality of life and health equity;

V

Emphasize that prevention and control of non-communicable diseases requires leadership at all levels, and a wide range of multi-level, multisectoral measures aimed at the full spectrum of non-communicable disease determinants (from individual-level to structural) to create the necessary conditions for leading healthy lives. This includes promoting and supporting healthy lifestyles and choices, relevant legislation and policies; preventing and detecting disease at the earliest possible moment to minimize suffering and reduce costs; and providing patients with the best possible integrated health care throughout the life cycle, including empowerment, rehabilitation and palliation;

VI

Recognize that a paradigm shift is imperative in dealing with non-communicable disease challenges, as non-communicable diseases are caused not only by biomedical factors, but are also caused or strongly influenced by behavioural, environmental, social and economic factors;

VII

Affirm our commitment to addressing the challenges posed by non-communicable diseases, including, as appropriate, strengthened and reoriented policies and programmes that emphasize multisectoral action on the behavioural, environmental, social and economic factors;

VIII

Express our belief that non-communicable diseases should be considered in partnerships for health; that they should be integrated into health and other sectors' planning and programming in a coordinated manner, particularly in low- and middle-income countries; that they should be part of the global research agenda and that the impact and sustainability of approaches to prevent and control non-communicable diseases will be enhanced through health systems strengthening and strategic coordination with existing global health programmes.

Rationale for action

1. Non-communicable diseases, principally cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, cancers and chronic respiratory diseases, are the leading causes of preventable morbidity and disability, and currently cause over 60 per cent of global deaths, 80 per cent of which occur in developing countries. By 2030, non-communicable diseases are expected to contribute to 75 per cent of global deaths.

2. In addition, other non-communicable diseases such as mental disorders also significantly contribute to the global disease burden.

3. Non-communicable diseases have substantial negative impacts on human development and may impede progress towards the Millennium Development Goals.

4. Non-communicable diseases now impact significantly on all levels of health services, health-care costs, and the health workforce, as well as national productivity in both emerging and established economies.

5. Worldwide, non-communicable diseases are important causes of premature death, striking hard among the most vulnerable and poorest populations. Globally, they impact on the lives of billions of people and can have devastating financial impacts that impoverish individuals and their families, especially in low- and middle-income countries.

6. Non-communicable diseases can affect women and men differently, hence their prevention and control should take gender into account.

7. Many countries are now facing extraordinary challenges from the double burden of disease: communicable diseases and non-communicable diseases. This requires adapting health systems and health policies, and a shift from disease-centred to people-centred approaches and population health measures. Vertical initiatives are insufficient to meet complex population needs, so integrated solutions

that engage a range of disciplines and sectors are needed. Strengthening health systems in this way results in improved capacity to respond to a range of diseases and conditions.

8. Evidence-based and cost-effective interventions exist to prevent and control non-communicable diseases at the global, regional, national and local levels. These interventions could have profound health, social and economic benefits throughout the world.

9. Examples of cost-effective interventions to reduce the risk of non-communicable diseases, which are affordable in low-income countries and could prevent millions of premature deaths every year, include measures to control tobacco use, reduce salt intake and reduce the harmful use of alcohol.

10. Particular attention should be paid to the promotion of healthy diets (low consumption of saturated fats, trans-fats, salt and sugar, and high consumption of fruits and vegetables) and physical activity in all aspects of daily living.

11. Effective non-communicable disease prevention and control require leadership and concerted "whole of Government" action at all levels (national, subnational and local) and across a number of sectors, such as health, education, energy, agriculture, sports, transport and urban planning, environment, labour, industry and trade, finance and economic development.

12. Effective non-communicable disease prevention and control require the active and informed participation and leadership of individuals, families and communities, civil society organizations, the private sector where appropriate, employers, health-care providers and the international community.

Commitment to action

We, therefore, commit to act at the whole of Government level:

1. By developing multisectoral public policies that create equitable health-promoting environments that enable individuals, families and communities to make healthy choices and lead healthy lives;

2. By strengthening policy coherence to maximize positive and minimize negative impacts on non-communicable disease risk factors and the burden resulting from policies of other sectors;

3. By giving priority to non-communicable disease prevention and control according to need, ensuring complementarity with other health objectives and mainstreaming multisectoral policies to strengthen the engagement of other sectors;

4. By engaging civil society to harness its particular capacities for non-communicable disease prevention and control;

5. By engaging the private sector in order to strengthen its contribution to non-communicable disease prevention and control according to international and national non-communicable disease priorities;

6. By developing and strengthening the ability of health systems to coordinate, implement, monitor and evaluate national and subnational strategies and programmes on non-communicable diseases;

7. By implementing population-wide health promotion and disease prevention strategies, complemented by individual interventions, according to national priorities. These should be equitable and sustainable and take into account gender, cultural and community perspectives in order to reduce health inequities;

8. By implementing cost-effective policies, such as fiscal policies, regulations and other measures to reduce common risk factors such as tobacco use, unhealthy diet, physical inactivity and the harmful use of alcohol;

9. By accelerating implementation by States Parties of the provisions of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) and encouraging other countries to ratify the Convention;

10. By implementing effective policies for non-communicable disease prevention and control at the national and global levels, including those relevant to achieving the goals of the Action Plan for the Global Strategy for the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases, the WHO Global Strategy to Reduce the Harmful Use of Alcohol and the Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health;

11. By promoting recognition of the rising incidence and burden of non-communicable diseases on national as well as international development agendas, and encouraging countries and international development partners to consider the level of priority accorded to non-communicable diseases.

At the Ministry of Health level:

1. By strengthening health information systems to monitor the evolving burden of non-communicable diseases, their risk factors, their determinants and the impact and effectiveness of health promotion, prevention and control policies and other interventions;

2. By strengthening public health systems at the country level, according to national priorities, in order to scale up evidence-based health promotion and non-communicable disease prevention strategies and actions;

3. By integrating non-communicable disease-related services into primary health-care services through health systems strengthening, according to capacities and priorities;

4. By promoting access to comprehensive and cost-effective prevention, treatment and care for integrated management of non-communicable diseases, including access to affordable, safe, effective and high quality medicines based on needs and resource assessments;

5. By ensuring the scaling-up of effective, evidence-based and cost-effective interventions, according to country-led prioritization, that demonstrate the potential to treat individuals with non-communicable diseases, protect those at high risk of developing them and reduce risk across populations;

6. By promoting, translating and disseminating research to identify the causes of non-communicable diseases, effective approaches for non-communicable disease prevention and control, and strategies appropriate to distinct cultural and health-care settings.

At the international level:

1. By calling upon WHO, as the lead United Nations specialized agency for health, and all other relevant United Nations system agencies, development banks, and other key international organizations to work together in a coordinated manner to address non-communicable diseases;

2. By working through WHO in consultation with other multilateral organizations, international non-governmental organizations, the private sector and civil society stakeholders to strengthen normative guidance, pool technical expertise, coordinate policy to achieve the best possible results and capitalize on synergies among existing global health initiatives;

3. By strengthening international support for the full and effective implementation of WHO FCTC, the Action Plan for the Global Strategy for the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases, the WHO Global Strategy to Reduce the Harmful Use of Alcohol, the Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health and other relevant international strategies to address non-communicable diseases;

4. By investigating all possible means to identify and mobilize the necessary financial, human and technical resources in ways that do not undermine other health objectives;

5. By supporting WHO in developing a comprehensive global monitoring framework on non-communicable diseases;

6. By examining possible means to continue facilitating the access of low- and middle-income countries to affordable, safe, effective and high quality medicines in this area consistent with the WHO Model Lists of Essential Medicines, based on needs and resource assessments, including by implementing the WHO Global Strategy and Plan of Action on Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property.

Way forward

With a view to securing an ambitious and sustainable outcome, we commit to actively engaging with all relevant sectors of Government, on the basis of this Moscow Declaration, in the preparation of and the follow-up to the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases, to be held in September 2011 in New York.

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General Assembly
Security Council

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General Assembly
Sixty-fifth session
Agenda item 36
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Sixty-sixth year

Identical letters dated 2 June 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I transmit to you herewith a statistical summary of Israeli violations of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006) committed in April 2011 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 36, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nawaf **Salam**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

11-37285 (E) 140611 150611

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Annex to the identical letters dated 2 June 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and President of the Security Council

Topic: Israeli violations, acts of aggression and activities during the month of April 2011

Land violations

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
1 April 2011	0845	Five Israeli enemy personnel crossed some 20 metres over the technical fence separating the area of the occupied Shab'a Farms with regard to which Lebanon maintains a claim from the liberated area on the outskirts of the town of Kafr Shuba.
	0915	Opposite the town of Mays al-Jabal, members of an Israeli enemy patrol crossed the technical fence and took up combat positions.
	1200	Members of an Israeli enemy patrol positioned themselves in an emplacement at the Fatimah Gate and directed profanities at Army personnel.
	2120	The Israeli enemy directed a laser beam for one minute from position *ghayn*-35 (south of Ramiyah) towards the Lebanese Army position at Ruwaysat al-Hadab.
3 April 2011	0200	An Israeli enemy patrol directed a searchlight for five minutes towards the Lebanese Army position at Manarah and the surrounding area.
	0215	An Israeli enemy patrol directed a searchlight for five minutes towards the Lebanese Army position at Manarah and the surrounding area.
9 April 2011	1220	Members of an Israeli enemy patrol pointed their weapons in the direction of the Spanish contingent at the Wazzani checkpoint.
10 April 2011	0830	The Israeli enemy installed a surveillance camera at position *ghayn*-39 (west of Ayta al-Sha'b-3), pointing towards the Lebanese Army position at Ruwaysat al-Hadab The camera was subsequently removed.
12 April 2011	0210	An Israeli enemy patrol directed a searchlight for five minutes towards the Lebanese Army position at Manarah and the surrounding area.
13 April 2011	1150	As an Israeli enemy patrol was moving from position *ghayn*-20 (Dahirah Gate) to position *ghayn*-21 (south of Dahirah Farm), its members directed vulgar profanities for two minutes towards the Lebanese Army position at Dahirah.

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
	1345	As an Israeli enemy patrol was moving from position *ghayn-20* (Dahirah Gate) to position *ghayn*-21 (south of Dahirah Farm), its members took photographs of the Lebanese Army position at Dahirah and directed vulgar profanities at soldiers stationed at the aforementioned position.
	2145	As an Israeli enemy patrol was moving from position *ghayn*-21 (south of Dahirah Farm) to position *ghayn*-20 (Dahirah Gate), its members directed a searchlight for two minutes towards a soldier at the Lebanese Army observation post at Dahirah.
14 April 2011	0530	An Israeli enemy bulldozer crossed the technical fence and performed work in the area with regard to which Lebanon maintains a claim opposite the town of Adaysah. At 0630 hours, a hostile patrol consisting of two Merkava tanks penetrated approximately 250 metres into the aforementioned area. The patrol left at 0940 hours.
	0930	In the vicinity of position *ghayn*-66, (Jall al-Dayr), an Israeli enemy bulldozer accompanied by a Merkava tank crossed the technical fence, engaged in earthmoving activities and erected earthen berms. At 1030 hours, another tank arrived, crossed the technical fence, positioned itself behind the earthen berm, and rotated its cannon in all directions, including the direction of Lebanese territory.
15 April 2011	1920	In the vicinity of the Fatimah Gate (Kafr Kila), as an Israeli enemy patrol was moving between positions *shin*-35 (Fatimah Gate-4) and *shin*-36 (south of Marj), its members deployed in the area, took up combat positions, and pointed their weapons in the direction of personnel at Lebanese Army observation post *lam-mim*-9.
17 April 2011	1745	Members of an Israeli enemy patrol at position *shin*-33 (Fatimah Gate-2) took photographs of Lebanese territory.
20 April 2011	Various times	Israeli enemy forces broke into the cellular telephone network and sent recorded messages in Arabic to the effect that anyone with information about the Israeli soldiers missing in Lebanon was guaranteed a reward of US$ 10 million.
25 April 2011	0010	On three occasions, an Israeli enemy patrol directed a searchlight for five seconds each time towards the Lebanese Army observation post at Manarah.
	1200	Members of an Israeli enemy patrol crossed 20 metres over the technical fence opposite the Lebanese Army position at Naqqar.

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
26 April 2011	0010	In the vicinity of coordinate B-69 opposite Manarah, an Israeli enemy patrol directed a searchlight for three successive periods of five seconds each towards Lebanese Army observation post *lam mim*-11.
29 April 2011	2145	As it was moving from position *shin*- 16 (north of Manarah-1) to position *shin*-14 (Jubiyah), an Israeli enemy patrol directed a searchlight for five seconds towards the Lebanese Army observation post at Manarah.

Sea violations

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
1 April 2011	0400	An Israeli enemy military launch directed a searchlight for 30 seconds towards Lebanese territorial waters.
	2000	An Israeli enemy military launch twice directed a searchlight for 20 seconds towards Lebanese territorial waters.
2 April 2011	0405	On three occasions, an Israeli enemy military launch directed a searchlight towards Lebanese territorial waters for 90 seconds.
3 April 2011	2055	For one minute, the Israeli enemy directed a searchlight from position *ghayn*-1 (Ra's al-Naqurah) towards Lebanese territorial waters.
5 April 2011	0130	On three occasions, an Israeli enemy military launch directed a searchlight three times towards Lebanese territorial waters for five seconds each time.
14 April 2011	2110 2115	An Israeli enemy military launch directed a searchlight towards Lebanese territorial waters for 15 seconds.
15 April 2011	0335	An Israeli enemy military launch several times directed a searchlight towards Lebanese territorial waters for five minutes.
16 April 2001	0440	On several occasions, an Israeli enemy military launch directed a searchlight towards Lebanese territorial waters.
17 April 2011	0500	An Israeli enemy military launch directed a searchlight towards Lebanese territorial waters for three minutes.
18 April 2011	0730	An Israeli enemy military launch swept a searchlight in a 15 metre arc off Ra's al-Naqurah between buoys Nos. 4 and 5.
19 April 2011	2110	From its position *ghayn*-2 (east of Ra's al-Naqurah), the Israeli enemy directed a searchlight towards Lebanese territorial waters for 10 seconds.
21 April 2011	2105	From its position *ghayn*-1 (Ra's al-Naqurah), the Israeli enemy twice directed a searchlight towards Lebanese territorial waters and the coast for five seconds.
26 April 2001	0150	From its position *ghayn*-1 (Ra's al-Naqurah), the Israeli enemy twice directed a searchlight towards Lebanese territorial waters, for 30 seconds on the first occasion and two minutes the second.
30 April 2011	0015	The Israeli enemy directed a searchlight for one minute and 55 seconds towards Lebanese territorial waters off Ra's al-Naqurah.

Air violations

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
1 April 2011	0950	Four Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over the sea. They circled over all regions of Lebanon before leaving at 1035 hours over the sea west of Naqurah.
	1010	Six Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Kafr Kila. They circled over all regions of Lebanon before leaving at 1130 hours over Alma al-Sha'b.
	1059	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace and circled over the South before leaving at 1613 hours.
	1032	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace and circled over the South before leaving at 1855 hours.
3 April 2011	1115	Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace and circled over the South before leaving at 1125 hours.
	1150	Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace and circled over the South before leaving at 1155 hours.
	1905	Two Israeli enemy aircraft violated Lebanese airspace and circled over the South before leaving at 1908 hours.
4 April 2011	2030	An Israeli enemy warplane released approximately 10 decoy flares some two kilometres off the coast opposite the UNIFIL headquarters in Naqurah while flying from north to south over the sea.
6 April 2011	1100	Two Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Rumaysh. They circled over all regions of Lebanon before leaving at 1245 hours over Alma al-Sha'b.
7 April 2011	0715	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah. It circled over the southern regions before leaving at 1210 hours over Kafr Kila.
	0730	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Alma al-Sha'b. It circled over the southern regions before leaving at 1520 hours over Naqurah.
	0900	Four Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Kafr Kila. They circled over Beirut and the South before leaving at 1030 hours over Alma al-Sha'b.

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
10 April 2011	1904	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace and circled over the South before leaving at 1906 hours.
11 April 2011	1230	Two Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Kafr Kila. They circled between Shikka and the South before leaving at 1420 hours over Rumaysh.
12 April 2011	2015	An Israeli enemy warplane violated Lebanese airspace and released five decoy flares over Lebanese territorial waters off Ra's al-Naqurah before leaving in the direction of occupied Palestinian territory.
	2333	An Israeli enemy aircraft violated Lebanese airspace and circled over the South before leaving at 2400 hours.
13 April 2011	0010	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Rumaysh. It circled over the South, Riyaq, Baalbek and Hirmil before leaving at 1915 hours over Alma al-Sha'b.
	0630	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah. It circled over the southern regions before leaving at 0945 hours over Alma al-Sha'b.
	0920	Two Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Kafr Kila. They circled over all regions of Lebanon before leaving at 1110 hours over Naqurah.
	1848	An Israeli enemy aircraft violated Lebanese airspace and circled over the South before leaving at 2013 hours.
	2010	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace and circled over the South before leaving at 2400 hours.
	2041	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace and circled over the South before leaving over Alma al-Sha'b at 0254 hours on 14 April.
14 April 2011	0230	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace and circled over the South before leaving at 0611 hours.
	0750	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Rumaysh. It circled over Riyaq, Baalbek, Hirmil and the South before leaving over Naqurah at 0425 hours on 15 April.

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
	0940	Twelve Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Alma al-Sha'b. They circled over all regions Lebanon before leaving at 1125 hours over Rumaysh.
15 April 2011	0740	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah. It circled over the southern regions before leaving at 1930 hours over Naqurah.
	1045	Six Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over the occupied Shab'a Farms. They circled over all regions of Lebanon before leaving at 1145 hours over Naqurah.
	1118	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace and circled over the South before leaving at 2312 hours.
16 April 2011	0725	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Alma al-Sha'b. It circled over the South before leaving at 1905 hours over Naqurah.
17 April 2011	0700	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah. It circled over regions of the South, Riyaq, Baalbek and Hirmil before leaving at 1840 hours over Alma al-Sha'b.
	0730	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Alma al-Sha'b and flying north. It circled over the South before leaving at 1700 hours over Rumaysh.
	1651	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace and circled over the South before leaving at 2245 hours.
	2225	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah. It circled over the South and Beirut before leaving over Naqurah at 1550 hours on 18 April.
18 April 2011	0710	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace and circled over the South before leaving at 1915 hours.
19 April 2011	0440	An Israeli enemy aircraft violated Lebanese airspace and circled over the South before leaving at 0543 hours.

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
	1800	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Rumaysh. It circled over regions of the South before leaving at 2125 hours over Alma al-Sha'b.
20 April 2011	0705	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah. It circled over the South, the Shuf and Beirut and its suburbs before leaving at 1040 hours over Rumaysh.
	0715	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah. It circled over the South before leaving at a 1055 hours over Rumaysh
	1737	An Israeli enemy aircraft violated Lebanese airspace and circled over the South before leaving at 1737 hours.
	1951	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace and circled over the South before leaving at 2230 hours.
23 April 2011	2210	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Alma al-Sha'b. It circled over regions of the South before leaving over Alma al-Sha'b at 1735 hours on 24 April.
24 April 2011	0710	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over the sea off Tyre. It circled over the sea off Beirut before leaving at 0855 hours over the sea off Naqurah.
	0935	Two Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Kafr Kila. They circled over all regions of Lebanon before leaving at 1110 hours over the sea west of Naqurah.
	1745	Two Israeli enemy aircraft violated Lebanese airspace and circled over the South before leaving at 1750 hours.
	1855	An Israeli enemy aircraft violated Lebanese airspace and circled over the South before leaving at 1925 hours.
25 April 2011	0630	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah. It circled over Beirut and its suburbs before leaving at 1800 hours over Alma al-Sha'b.
	0645	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Alma al-Sha'b. It circled over the South before leaving at 1815 hours over Naqurah.

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
26 April 2011	0600	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah. It circled over Riyaq and the South before leaving at 1815 hours over Naqurah.
	0705	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah. It circled over Beirut, the South and the Bekaa before leaving over Naqurah at 0445 hours on 27 April.
	0847	An Israeli enemy warplane violated Lebanese airspace and circled over the South before leaving at 1810 hours.
27 April 2011	0655	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah. It circled over the South and the Bekaa before leaving at 1815 hours over Alma al-Sha'b.
	0840	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah. It circled over Beirut and the South before leaving at 2115 hours over Alma al-Sha'b.
	0930	Four Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Kafr Kila. They circled over the South and the Western Bekaa before leaving at 1035 hours over Naqurah.
28 April 2011	1300	In the vicinity of the Lebanese Army position at Kafr Dunin, Israeli enemy forces released a quantity of balloons (some 100 balloons) in a single bunch. They had a cardboard placard hanging from them with the Israeli enemy flag, a butterfly, and Hebrew writing on it.
29 April 2011	1020	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah. It circled over the South before leaving at 1300 hours over Alma al-Sha'b.

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Agenda item 20 (e)
Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

High-level meeting on addressing desertification, land degradation and drought in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the General Assembly the report submitted by the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, in preparation for the high-level meeting on desertification, land degradation and drought in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, to be held at Headquarters on 20 September 2011, in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 65/160.

11-36758 (E) 230611

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Report of the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

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I. Background

1. In its resolution 65/160, the General Assembly decided to convene a one-day high-level meeting on the theme "Addressing desertification, land degradation and drought in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication", prior to the general debate of its sixty-sixth session. In paragraph 11 (e) of the resolution, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare a background paper for the high-level meeting. The present paper has been prepared in response to that request.

2. The paper views desertification, land degradation and drought in their global context. This stems from the cross-cutting dimensions of the issues and the strong linkages between desertification, land degradation and drought and challenges such as climate change, biodiversity, poverty eradication and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, food security, peace and security, forced migration, natural disaster reduction, and water management, among others. It argues the case for addressing desertification, land degradation and drought as crucial to finding sustainable solutions to numerous global crises and hence the urgent need to ensure higher priority for those issues on the international agenda.

II. Desertification, land degradation and drought in perspective

Desertification, land degradation and drought are global issues: humankind's future relies on successful management of its increasing impact on land and soil

A. Land degradation and drought have a global dimension and affect all ecosystems

3. Land degradation is a long-term loss of ecosystem function and services that are vital for human existence, caused by disturbances from which the system cannot recover unaided. The issue is traditionally viewed as most pressing in the world's arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas — commonly known as the "drylands" — where land degradation is called desertification. An analysis of 23 years of remote sensing data reveals a declining trend in land productivity across some 24 per cent of the global land surface, at a rate of almost 1 per cent per year. More than 50 per cent of the land used for agriculture is moderately to severely degraded. Arable land loss has been estimated at 30 to 35 times the historical rate. Land degradation outside drylands accounts for 78 per cent of its total and is undoubtedly a global issue, affecting developed countries as well as developing ones.

4. Desertification and land degradation occur in numerous ways, such as soil erosion, the deterioration of soil biology and the loss of natural vegetation. Forces driving unsustainable land use include agricultural policies, land governance, and market regulation. Results include declines in crop production, fuelwood harvests and water resources.

5. Ecological and economic systems are also disrupted by drought, the naturally occurring phenomenon that exists when precipitation is significantly below normal recorded levels. Drought, like land degradation, occurs in most parts of the world, including humid regions, because drought is a dry spell relative to the average conditions locally. Drought is temporary, in contrast to the permanent aridity in

drylands, but drylands are also still prone to drought because the rainfall they receive critically depends on a few rainfall events.

B. Drylands will significantly expand in the decades to come

6. Ecosystems affected by increased aridity are likely to expand under global warming scenarios. Since the mid-twentieth century, global aridity and drought areas have increased substantially, a trend that is particularly marked after the late 1970s, when rapid warming of the atmosphere has contributed significantly to global drying. Still greater aridity and persistent severe droughts are expected in the next 20 to 50 years over most of Africa, Southern Europe and the Middle East, Australia, South-East Asia and most of North and South America. The implications for very large numbers of people are clear. Rapid response and adaptation strategies, incorporating effective drought management and disaster risk reduction plans, should be a high priority.

7. Drought conditions can profoundly affect ecosystems, agriculture, water resources, power supplies and basic human welfare. These effects can be exacerbated by desertification and land degradation. For example, poor management of cropland may lead to greater erosion and dust storms, amplifying the effects of drought on food production.

C. The issue of keeping productive land has become a global issue

8. Productive land is becoming scarce. Population growth, climate change, land degradation and growing urban areas increase the pressure on productive land resources and water. At the same time, competition for productive land increases due to growing demand for food, fodder and agricultural raw material for industrial and energy use. The extreme increase of land sales and long-term land leases in developing countries can be taken as one indicator that land has become a global issue.

9. Another compelling reason to view desertification, land degradation and drought in its global context stems from the links between land degradation and two other major issues of global environmental change: climate change and biodiversity loss. Land is intimately related to climate change adaptation and mitigation, and its sustainable management provides a tool for both. Maintaining and enhancing the condition of ecosystems based on land contributes to biodiversity conservation, and sustainably managing land — including rehabilitation and reclamation — provides a viable alternative to deforestation and afforestation.

10. Desertification, land degradation and drought, when compounded by poverty and inequality, can feed political insecurity and conflict. The fierce competition over scarce resources for life (water and productive land) in the context of chronic poverty transform affected areas into conflict-prone regions. It is probably not coincidental that drylands are some of the most conflict-prone regions of the world. In 2007, 80 per cent of major armed conflicts worldwide occurred in drylands.

11. Drought and degradation drive people off their land, creating economic migrants and environmental refugees. Temporary migration has long been an important element in rural livelihoods during times of stress, but increasing numbers

migrate internationally and for longer periods. These migrants have the potential to adversely affect political and economic stability locally, regionally and internationally.

D. Sustainable land management and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

12. The reverse side of these desertification, land degradation and drought synergies means that work done to achieve sustainable land management also contributes to addressing other global challenges. The devastating impacts of desertification and drought came to the world's attention as arguably the first global environmental issue in the early 1970s when the effects in Sahelian Africa prompted calls for international action. On the policy front, this stimulated a chain of initiatives that eventually culminated in the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, one of the three Rio Conventions agreed in 1992. The Convention to Combat Desertification has now been ratified by 194 parties.

13. Much has changed in the nearly 20 years since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. The Conference itself was a landmark event in society's shift in appreciation of the natural environment as a whole: from viewing nature primarily as resource, to understanding nature as life-sustaining global ecosystem that also harbours resources. That view is now firmly entrenched. With this new understanding has come the widespread acceptance that human-induced environmental changes, and their consequences for human and ecosystems well-being, are now fundamental development issues.

E. For human needs to be met, land resource and capacity must be assessed and monitored at all levels

14. As the only international and legally binding instrument focussing on sustainable land management, the Convention to Combat Desertification requires all parties to engage through political, practical and financial investment in the maintenance of productive land by improving affected ecosystems and living conditions.

15. Desertification/land degradation is now recognized as both an environmental and a developmental problem, and of global proportions. From a scientific viewpoint, the exclusive focus on land degradation solely in drylands has de facto proven to be no longer tenable. Segregating dryland degradation from non-dryland degradation has also proven to be counterproductive at the national level, on the one hand, because most affected countries have both dryland and non-dryland areas and, on the other hand, because of its cross-border dimensions.

16. A new understanding of the scope of the Convention has emerged over the past 10 years, which combines the priority given to drylands with recognition that the tools and policies promoted by the Convention are relevant to sustainable land management globally. Although the Convention distinguishes between affected and non-affected parties, the active engagement of all parties is prudent because a country not affected immediately by desertification will certainly still feel its impact

via related issues, including climate change, food insecurity and environmentally induced migration.

17. The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 2012, will focus on green economies in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication and the future institutional framework for sustainable development. The time is right to argue the case for efficient management of natural resources as a central element of a green economy, and the battle for poverty eradication and global sustainability.

18. A 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008-2018) was adopted at the eighth session of the Conference of the Parties, in 2007 (decision 3/COP.8). It has four strategic objectives, three of which now have operational frameworks. The Strategy is an essential document for the implementation of the Convention. It provides a framework that captures the long-term vision of the parties, reflecting consensus on the success factors (finance, policy, capacity development, advocacy and a sound scientific basis) for achieving the Convention's targets. It would be useful to reflect on the progress achieved and obstacles that impede further implementation.

19. After the eighth session of the Conference of the Parties, the Convention entered the realms of measurability in terms of impact and performance indicators with a move towards a results-based management approach. At the ninth session, in 2009, the parties decided to use a standardized set of performance indicators for reports, and agreed on 11 indicators to assess desertification impact. The two mandatory indicators — changes in land cover status and the proportion of the population living above the poverty line — and nine optional impact indicators will first be used for reporting in 2012.

III. The poverty-desertification, land degradation and drought nexus

Sustainable land management has a positive impact on economic growth and the eradication of poverty worldwide

20. The Convention to Combat Desertification is the global focal point and normative reference for desertification, land degradation and drought issues. Its full operationalization at all levels and by all actors and stakeholders is, therefore, a wise and highly desirable strategy. Land degradation affects 1.5 billion people globally whose livelihoods depend directly on exploiting degraded areas and is closely associated with poverty, as 42 per cent of the very poor live in degraded areas compared with 15 per cent of the non-poor.

A. Land degradation is a cause and a consequence of poverty worldwide

21. The challenges of desertification, land degradation and drought are of a global nature because land degradation and drought occur in virtually all ecosystems. Hence, these issues are faced by all countries, although their significance is particularly acute for the world's poor. Many people living in rural areas depend directly upon the natural resource base for their livelihoods, so any deterioration in

those resources, through desertification, land degradation and/or drought, has direct impacts on human welfare.

22. The links between land degradation and poverty are mutually reinforcing. This "downward spiral" hypothesis has it that some poor households are compelled to deplete resources to survive, and this degradation impoverishes them because degraded land progressively reduces agricultural productivity and income. People in poverty may well recognize their actions as harmful to their own long-term interests, yet their abject poverty leaves them with no alternative.

B. Droughts have a disproportionate impact on the poor

23. Several studies have found that during a drought the poorest rural households experience crop-income losses that are proportionally higher than the losses of the wealthiest households. Drought losses are typically offset by selling remaining assets, but prices are often depressed after a natural disaster because many people sell possessions at the same time, undermining the efficacy of the coping strategy. This situation applies particularly to livestock or other possessions in remote rural areas with limited access to markets.

24. Reductions in income or consumption caused by drought frequently have negative knock-on effects on other aspects of human welfare and development. In countries where the socio-economic status of women is low, drought disasters can intensify existing patterns of discrimination that make women more vulnerable. Drought may result in a decline in body mass among rural women, with no impact on men's health. Children in drought-affected villages can experience long-lasting effects on health, such as stunted growth and impaired mental development.

25. Most of the effects of drought on poor rural households occur as a result of its adverse impacts on the quantity and quality of food production. Soil degradation has similar indirect effects on human nutrition and health and acts both separately from and in tandem with drought. It is necessary when considering policy options to strengthen the food security policies that promote food production by indigenous people, small farmers and rural communities, including by using indigenous seeds and traditional knowledge.

C. The "forgotten billion": poverty prevalence is higher in drylands

26. Many of the world's poorest and most disadvantaged people face these and other challenges on a daily basis. Most poor people, in particular the rural poor, are located in areas that are frequently described using terms such as "marginal" and "fragile". A common characteristic of such "difficult" places is aridity, and the association between drylands and poverty has been identified at numerous geographical scales, from the global and regional to the national and subnational. Worldwide, about half of all dryland inhabitants are poor: approximately one billion people whose low level of human welfare reflects a fundamental neglect in the development process, including lack of access to basic services such as access to clean drinking water and sanitation.

27. The large majority of these dryland inhabitants depend directly upon a highly variable natural resource base for their livelihoods. Drylands embrace a range of

climatic and environmental conditions all typified by limited water resources. Rainfall totals are low on average and often vary greatly from year to year and over short distances. The result is a group of physical environments characterized by dynamism and low levels of ecosystem services.

28. Poverty in rural drylands and in degraded lands in general stems from an interconnected web of drivers. Other reasons commonly cited to explain concentrations of rural poverty include physical isolation, political marginalization and an associated lack of infrastructure, which includes, but is not limited to, access to markets, education and health facilities.

29. There is certainly nothing inevitable about the drylands' generally low status with regard to human well-being. Despite the challenges of living in these environments, people have successfully inhabited drylands for thousands of years, and examples of great productivity and prosperity can also be cited from these regions. Drylands provide much of the world's food in the form of grain and livestock. Major global areas of cereal production are located in semi-arid areas, including the North American Great Plains, the Pampas in Argentina and the wheat belts of the Russian Federation, Ukraine and Kazakhstan. Dryland rangelands support about 50 per cent of the world's livestock. Drylands are also the setting for major world cities such as Beijing, Cairo, Delhi, Los Angeles, California, and Mexico City.

30. These simple facts contradict the myth that all drylands are empty, barren places with little economic value. This is one of several popular misconceptions about drylands that have impeded progress towards sustainable development in these areas, part and parcel of their general neglect by political and business leaders. The Millennium Development Goals experience has taught us that motivating countries to address poverty issues in many environments can be achieved by employing targets as effective instruments.

31. Many regions of poverty are characterized by high levels of risk, which the poor are often badly placed to cope with. This compounds the probability of hardship and contributes to the difficulties of escaping from poverty. Natural hazards such as extremes of climate, in particular drought, are typical drivers of these high levels of risk. A loss of food and income, due to harvest failure and/or livestock mortality, is a common outcome at the household level.

D. Desertification, land degradation and drought and risk management

32. Natural disaster risk is also fundamentally associated with poverty at larger scales. Countries with small and vulnerable economies, such as landlocked developing countries, least developed countries and small island developing States, suffer higher relative levels of economic loss with respect to the size of gross domestic product (GDP), and have a particularly low resilience to losses from natural disasters such as drought and flood. The case of Haiti illustrates the vulnerability and poor resilience of least developed countries vis-à-vis various categories of shocks, particularly those stemming from climate change. After the devastating earthquake of February 2010, the successful reconstruction of that country must of necessity address its serious land degradation problem, for it is

productive lands that hold the key to Haiti's future as regards sustainable development.

33. Rural communities have themselves developed numerous strategies for managing the inherent risks stemming from variability in natural environments, but the resilience of these communities to perturbations can be enhanced often with very simple development assistance. Drought presents a critical challenge in the semi-arid north-east of Brazil, where provision of a safe and reliable supply of water is a vital way of increasing the use efficiency of sporadic resources. Since 2003, the Programme of a Million Cisterns has worked towards supplying "drought secure" drinking water for a million rural households — about 5 million people — in the area, using a decentralized, low-tech method of managing rainwater. With a community-based participatory approach, families are assisted in building their own cisterns to collect rainwater. By January 2011, over 320,000 cisterns had been constructed. The initiative has generated employment and income, helped to lighten the domestic workload for many women and enabled more children to attend school. Diseases related to contaminated water have also decreased.

E. Desertification, land degradation and drought and gender: women bear the burdens of land degradation and provide solutions

34. Labour divisions in rural areas are often gendered. Women undertake many of the household tasks, including the collection of wood and water and the provision of food. In degraded environments, these tasks become more difficult, adding to the burden on women and girls. Investing in opportunities for women and girls has strong multiplier effects across all the Millennium Development Goals.

35. An example centred on access to modern energy services can be cited from rural Mali, where biomass provides virtually all energy supplies, creating corridors of deforestation along access roads and exacerbating the problems of soil erosion and desertification. Since the 1990s, some villages have been supplied with a diesel engine mounted on a platform to provide off-grid energy for many uses, including the processing of agricultural produce, pumping water, charging batteries and powering lights. Women's groups operate and maintain the equipment on these "multifunctional platforms" and sell energy services to local customers.

36. The programme has eased the burden of fuel wood collection, bringing considerable time savings for women. The resulting multiple benefits include increased cash income, higher food consumption, better health opportunities for women and better educational opportunities for girls, as well as reduced pressure on local fuel wood sources. The approach could be modified before scaling up, utilizing the abundant solar power that typifies drylands, to increase access to energy for the poor and alleviate pressures on biomass.

37. Full and equal gender participation is a requirement under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. The multifunctional platforms in rural Mali illustrate how rapid and profound benefits can be brought about with just small investments targeting rural women.

F. Desertification, land degradation and drought and economic growth

38. The fundamental essence of any policies designed to tackle rural poverty must be to concentrate on improving household activities that are already available, which in most places means some form of agriculture, while also expanding the range of potential activities of family members. Increasing options to generate income based on the effective participation of all sectors of society, can make these regions more attractive for public and private investment, leading in time to better services and infrastructure in a virtuous circle of development.

39. The ability to access and take advantage of income-generating activities depends critically on access to assets, such as land, education and infrastructure. If natural assets are losing value thanks to degradation and drought, this will undermine any progress made on access to other forms of asset. By controlling and reversing desertification/land degradation and mitigating the effects of drought, the Convention to Combat Desertification therefore makes a direct positive contribution to reducing the poverty that affects a billion people in drylands.

IV. Desertification, land degradation and drought and sustainable development

Maintaining ecosystem services requires good science-policy linkages and an emphasis on synergies

40. Land degradation corrodes the three pillars of sustainable development worldwide. Beyond food scarcity, desertification, land degradation and drought can create unemployment, economic deterioration, social tension, involuntary migration and conflicts. Spiking prices for staple foods such as rice and maize in 2008 coincided with worldwide food riots and related civil disturbances.

A. Desertification, land degradation and drought is a driver of food insecurity

41. Worldwide, some 925 million people are going hungry, 80 per cent of them small farmers and the landless poor in rural areas. Providing food for an additional 3 billion people by 2050 requires a 70 per cent increase in global food production according to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The challenge will be particularly critical in the most vulnerable parts of the developing world, but the current trend of rising food prices is starting to hit people in industrialized countries and cities as well.

42. World food prices are expected to continue to be higher in the next decade. Land degradation is contributing to higher and more volatile food prices, by reducing agricultural production and causing production to be more vulnerable to weather extremes and changing climate conditions. According to the International Food Policy Research Institute, land degradation over the next 25 years may reduce global food production from what it otherwise would be by as much as 12 per cent, resulting in world food prices as much as 30 per cent higher for some commodities.

43. Improving the resilience of agricultural production systems in the face of drought and other extreme climate events, as well as the slow-onset impacts of climate change, is therefore a challenge of immense importance. Protecting or rehabilitating degraded lands that contribute directly, or indirectly via ecosystem services, to agricultural productivity is another important strategy. Meeting global food targets will require improved, sustainable management of relevant resources, including land, nutrients and water.

B. Desertification, land degradation and drought has economic, social and environmental costs

44. Land has a value as natural capital and there are costs associated with unsustainable land use although, in part, the costs of degradation depend on the priorities of individual land users.

45. Desertification, land degradation and drought brings significant social and environmental costs. At the global scale, losses in net primary production can be used as an indicator of land degradation. Measured as net primary production loss, land degradation was also responsible for a loss of fixed carbon between 1981 and 2003 of some 900 million tons, costed at $48 billion. Land degradation and poverty often coincide: this was shown in the Land Degradation Assessment in Drylands study, in which geographical patterns of net primary production loss were compared to those for infant mortality and the percentage of children under five who are underweight. Only in drylands, land degradation is estimated to cost developing countries about 4-8 per cent of their GDP every year.

C. Desertification, land degradation and drought is a major impediment to progress in the least developed countries

46. The economics of most least developed countries rely heavily on climate-sensitive agriculture, which employs an average of 70 per cent of the population. Land, their main capital, if not their only capital, is continuously depleted, further entrenching them into poverty.

47. The adverse impacts of climate change are compounding the situation. Least developed countries in South Asia have experienced huge losses as their agricultural productivity has shrunk by 30-40 per cent. Yield from rain-fed agriculture could be reduced by up to 50 per cent by 2020 in some African least developed countries.

48. During the last decade and despite an average of 6 per cent growth in GDP, least developed countries have witnessed an increase in food imports and have become more food insecure. In most least developed countries, 70 per cent of the food-insecure live in rural areas, mostly where land productivity is very low.

49. In countries with land-based economies, addressing desertification, land degradation and drought issues through sound investment in agriculture and rural development is a priority for overcoming poverty and stimulating growth. According to the World Bank, GDP growth in agriculture is up to four times more effective in reducing poverty than GDP generated in other sectors.

D. Understanding the economic dimension and social implications of desertification, land degradation and drought

50. A stocktaking analysis of the economics of desertification, land degradation and drought, funded by the Government of Germany, reveals that existing valuation studies focus mainly on the direct costs of land degradation to agricultural productivity. Most calculations are at the country level and confine themselves to soil erosion effects. Their cost estimates range from less than 1 per cent up to about 10 per cent of agricultural GDP. Off-site costs are significantly higher. In just one example, the annual cost of siltation in reservoirs behind the world's large dams is about $18.5 billion when considering the loss of hydropower, the loss of irrigation-driven productivity and the costs of dam replacement. The latest assessment in Malawi put the annual on-site loss of agricultural productivity due to soil degradation at $54 million (1.6 per cent of GDP) in 2007. The costs of minimizing this impact are put at $10 million a year.

51. Drought is one of the most economically disruptive of all extreme weather events. Annually, the economic cost of drought in the United States of America is put at $6 billion to $8 billion, but it reached $40 billion in the drought of 1988. The 1999-2000 drought in Kenya, one of the worst in the country's history, led to a 1.4 per cent fall in GDP and a 2.2 per cent rise in inflation. During the 1991-95 drought in Australia, production by rural industries fell by 10 per cent, costing the Australian economy US$5 billion. Drought relief from Commonwealth Governments cost a further $590 million.

52. The initiative of the study on the economics of desertification, land degradation and drought[1] is meant to produce an economic valuation of land degradation and a cost-benefit analysis of sustainable land management. Targeted communication on the results will enable decision makers to adequately trigger action against land degradation in order to strengthen rural development and global food security. The basis for this is an independent scientific assessment in the context of a sound and evidence-based economic approach.

E. Addressing desertification, land degradation and drought is one of the best ways of meeting the objectives of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity

53. The issue of land degradation outside forests is hugely important for forest degradation. If land degradation is not addressed seriously, up to 70 per cent of the mitigation we would get from protecting our forests would be lost.

54. The challenges of confronting the numerous costs of desertification, land degradation and drought to society and the environment are compounded by the ecological and economic changes associated with climate change and biodiversity loss. Desertification and land degradation diminish biodiversity both above the ground and within the soil, and this diversity underpins the ecosystem services that

[1] International Food Policy Research Institute, "The economies of desertification, land degradation and drought: towards an integrated global assessment", IFPRI Discussion Paper, May 2011.

benefit society. Land degradation also contributes to global climate change by releasing to the atmosphere carbon stored in vegetation and soils. Feedbacks can exacerbate the links between desertification, land degradation and drought, climate change and biodiversity loss, presenting significant challenges to communities whose livelihoods depend directly on biological resources. Unless suitable changes are made to their use of those resources, these people can be propelled into unsustainable land uses, with land degradation the result. Support to developing countries to address the adverse impacts of climate change and desertification, based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, is also essential.

F. Sustainable land management can have major global benefits for carbon storage and help in protecting biodiversity

55. One of the most pervasive of the numerous complex synergies among the three Rio Conventions occurs through land-use change. Deforestation converts forest into carbon dioxide, reduces the vegetation's carbon-storage capacity and reduces the water-holding capacity of the soil, thus inducing land degradation. Hence, a programme for sustainable management of the land, including forests and agriculture, will limit global warming and conserve some biodiversity. Of course, such sustainable land management also improves the livelihoods of those communities dependent on the land.

56. Sustainable land management is also essential to the success of projects designed to offset greenhouse gas emissions funded by reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries (REDD) and REDD+. This is because preserving forests will have limited results unless programmes for preventing and reversing land degradation are available as a viable alternative to encroachment on forests.

G. Better policies for sustainable land management need a firmer scientific basis

57. The threats to sustainable development posed by desertification, land degradation and drought have been recognized for a long time. In 1987, the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development, entitled "Our Common Future", pointed out that land use in agriculture and forestry should be based on a scientific assessment of land capacity and monitoring of the annual depletion of topsoil. Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the outcomes of the sixteenth and seventeenth sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development have devoted a great deal of attention to these issues. The fact that the aims of the Convention to Combat Desertification include improving the physical and biological conditions of land and the livelihoods of people affected in itself poses major methodological challenges for integrating the monitoring and assessment of human and environmental parameters.

58. Progress in responding to these threats has been undermined in part by the difficulties of measuring the distribution, extent and severity of the numerous types of degradation. Maps and databases do not convey an accurate picture of the global dimensions and the local dynamics of the problem, nor do they provide insight into the impacts of investments in sustainable land management.

59. Parties to the Convention to Combat Desertification have thus adopted two mandatory impact indicators: land cover status and the proportion of the population living below the poverty line.

60. The FAO Land Degradation in Drylands Assessment project has created a baseline for future global monitoring using a range of indicators collected by processing satellite data and existing databases.

61. Getting the details of these impact indicators right is crucially important because only when the details are agreed can baselines for monitoring and assessment be set. The establishment of baseline conditions will then enable impact targets to be agreed.

62. Progress on these challenges has been hindered by deficiencies in communication between the scientific community and Convention bodies. Strengthening the scientific base of the Convention on desertification, land degradation and drought issues is an important precursor to the setting of impact targets. Institutional protocols and formats, both within the Convention and within the global scientific community, need improvement. Hence, a series of scientific conferences was established to enhance the flow of scientific information into the deliberations and decisions relative to the Convention. Nonetheless, some mechanism for more continuous engagement between the scientific community and the Convention is still required for activities such as monitoring and assessment. Establishing a global authority on the scientific and technical knowledge pertaining to desertification, land degradation and drought is one of the expected outcomes of the 10-year Strategy of the Convention.

V. Policy dimensions of desertification, land degradation and drought

Investing scarce resources through an integrated approach can maximize impacts and benefits

63. Preventing land degradation and achieving land improvement are feasible and have far-reaching impacts. In fact, during the period of time where 24 per cent of the global land area has shown a trend of increasing degradation, improvement has been noted in some 16 per cent of the land area, mainly in dry and range lands. Crucial elements of any effective approach to sustainable land management will of necessity hinge on support — human, financial and technical — from the international community to the national action plans of parties and also to the regional coordination units, which can play a catalytic role in implementation of the five regional annexes to the Convention to Combat Desertification.

A. The ultimate aims of sustainable land management: to enhance the economic and social well-being of affected communities, sustain ecosystem services and strengthen the adaptive capacity to manage climate change

64. The ubiquity of desertification, land degradation and drought and the linkages with other global development challenges means that strategies to deal with its

issues should be cross-cutting and synergistic and can make a substantial contribution to the eradication of poverty and to the achievement of sustainable development. Progress towards these goals can be made by communities, Governments, donors, international bodies and private investors. Investments made by all of these groups should view human society and the operation of nature in an integrated manner. The ultimate aims of this integrated approach to addressing desertification, land degradation and drought should be threefold: enhancing the economic and social well-being of affected communities, enabling them to sustain their ecosystem services, as well as strengthening their adaptive capacity to manage environmental (including climate) change.

B. Funding for sustainable land management should include private sector investments

65. To facilitate implementation of the Convention, existing national, bilateral and multilateral funding sources should be employed, along with additional innovative sources of funding from the private sector and elsewhere. People directly involved in sustainable land management, farmers and pastoralists, are key to its success, but this is also true of a whole range of companies whose activities have a direct bearing on soils, particularly those involved in agriculture, energy, water management, forestry, or involved in activities whose waste and by-products affect soil fertility.

C. Five conditions for successful policies for sustainable land management acceleration

66. Sustainable land management cannot succeed as a stand-alone policy but needs to be embedded in other policies. Eradicating poverty is one of the essential requirements for sustainable development, and addressing desertification, land degradation and drought should play a critical role in achieving sustainability. The experiences of countries striving to achieve the Millennium Development Goals highlight the conditions for success of scaling up and rolling out sustainable land management.

1. Country-led development and effective governance

67. The choice of policies and how well they are implemented determines progress on the Millennium Development Goals and how sustainable land management can assist in this process. Effective implementation also requires representative political structures, accountable institutions and public servants who have adequate incentives and capacities.

68. Mainstreaming desertification, land degradation and drought issues into national and communal development strategies and investment plans, through consultation and participation, is essential. Further prerequisites for sustainable land management are land-use planning and appropriate tenure for land and natural resources as they help to secure investments and to prevent conflicts over productive land.

69. An example of how country-led development and effective governance may be facilitated can be cited from Tajikistan. A recent project on enhancing agricultural governance has contributed to rural poverty alleviation and agricultural growth by strengthening participatory decision-making among farmers and increasing their

voice in national policymaking. Examples from West Africa prove that local conventions on the utilization and protection of natural resources which regulate use and access are important tools for the decentralized management of natural resources, if they are sufficiently institutionalized and economically viable for the population.

70. Enhancing the capacity to monitor desertification, land degradation and drought and the impact of investments in sustainable land management has been neglected in the past, but has proven to be essential to encourage appropriate political decision-making.

2. Inclusive and pro-poor economic growth with a focus on agricultural productivity

71. In most rural areas, improving farming system productivity is essential, particularly by increasing inputs (e.g., credit, better seeds and water management). Identifying comparative advantage is central to stimulating agricultural growth in remote disadvantaged regions, such as many drylands. Where market access is good and soils suitable, small-scale irrigation development may yield the highest returns. Extensive livestock production may have comparative advantage in areas with low crop potential, particularly if remote and sparsely populated (e.g., West Africa and the Altiplano-Puna of the Central Andes). Growing markets for livestock products, particularly in burgeoning cities in developing countries, offer great opportunities to maximize the potential benefits in these areas, given appropriate support for poor livestock producers to better integrate with commercial marketing and processing. Safeguards should also be introduced to protect the poor from further marginalization in the event of competition against outside investors.

72. The private sector is vital to these strategies for stimulating agricultural growth, but needs public investment in transport and communications, property rights, and technology transfers. Three decades of increasingly progressive agricultural land-use rights reform made a major contribution to the dramatic reduction of poverty rates in recent decades in China. Greatly improved cereal yields in India over the last 40 years have been achieved by long-term public investment in improving varieties, followed by private sector involvement, resulting in a significant advance in rural food security.

3. Public investment in education, health and basic services

73. Many rural areas suffer from poor service delivery in health, education, water, sanitation and other basic infrastructure, often as a result of their low population densities and distance from urban centres. Investment in better basic services is linked to sustainable land management in numerous ways. Healthier farmers, for example, are better able to implement soil conservation measures and sustainably managed land will improve food security and nutrition levels. Areas with relatively high literacy rates are likely to enjoy improved prospects for pro-poor growth.

74. Service provision can improve the resilience of rural communities to variability in natural environments. Providing a safe and reliable water supply, for instance, is a vital way of increasing the use efficiency of sporadic resources. This has been achieved simply in drought-prone north-eastern Brazil through the Programme of a Million Cisterns (see para. 33 above).

75. For mobile pastoralists, an element of mobility can be introduced for some service provision. Schemes combining human and animal services, a "One Health" approach, benefit further from shared transport logistics and equipment. The good

health of their animals is pivotal for pastoralists, given that livestock provide the main source of subsistence and the basis of economic wealth and social respect. Veterinary services can also control contagious diseases and infections that are transmittable between animals and humans, improving both human and livestock well-being. Healthier animals equate to better food security and higher incomes for pastoralists. Eliminating major human diseases also has synergistic effects in supporting progress in numerous other Millennium Development Goals.

4. Safety nets

76. Another condition for success can be met with targeted interventions via social assistance and public employment programmes. Targeting benefits to the poor is simple, cost-effective and can reduce poverty significantly. Government programmes providing income support and cash transfers to households that still lag behind, despite help from other policies, can work in any disadvantaged area, including poor and remote regions with few services. Pioneered in Latin America, the approach has been replicated in Africa and Asia. If cash transfer programmes are integrated with extension work on sustainable land management technologies, the poor can invest directly in their land to increase its productivity.

77. Government-backed guaranteed work schemes represent an additional form of targeted intervention. These public employment programmes can provide the labour to regenerate the rural sector through infrastructural improvements and enhanced agricultural productivity. Among their attractions, work programmes can be implemented fairly quickly or scaled up rapidly.

5. Integration of sustainable land management, climate adaptation and low-carbon development

78. Helping households dependent on natural resources to manage risk and reduce climate-driven shocks is a priority, a condition with particular resonance for the Convention. Indeed, sustainable land management has been recognized as a key investment area for strengthening resilience to the impacts of climate change under the Pilot Programme for Climate Resilience, paving the way for the integration of sustainable land management into core development planning and implementation.

79. Policies include incentives for climate-resilient land management practices, developing more climate-resilient varieties of crop and livestock, and reducing vulnerability by increasing incomes, improving access to markets, and the development of new markets and products. Governments can help further by underwriting livestock and agricultural insurance schemes established by the private sector.

80. Comparative advantage in some regions lies in new opportunities related to climate change, involving the fixing of carbon — or "sequestration" — and renewable energy (solar, wind and biomass), elements of a green economy that may have particular significance for rural areas with low population densities. Ecotourism may be another suitable alternative development pathway. Innovative funding models should be investigated. One example is the Costa Rican Forestry Act No. 7575, which allows payments to landowners who conserve forest. In this way, private landowners help to safeguard the nation's ecosystem services, including watershed protection, carbon sequestration, biodiversity conservation, and scenic landscape/tourism.

D. United Nations system-wide response to drylands

81. The General Assembly has already recognized the cross-sectoral nature of desertification, land degradation and drought, and in that regard has invited all relevant United Nations organizations to cooperate with the Convention secretariat in supporting an effective response to desertification and drought. A United Nations network on land issues in drylands is being established to propose options for a coherent United Nations system-wide contribution to land challenges, including implementation of the 10-year Strategy of the Convention. The Issue Management Group on land, created in September 2009 for a period of two years by the Environment Management Group, has drafted a United Nations system-wide rapid response report on drylands highlighting their importance to key global issues, including climate change, food security and human settlements. The report is not the end of the process so much as a milestone in a unique effort by the United Nations system to join hands in supporting the implementation of the 10-year strategic plan of the Convention by "delivering as one".

82. The premise of the report is that drylands in poor countries face disadvantage from the environmental challenges of aridity and variability and the socio-economic counterpart of chronic underinvestment, but that drylands do offer investment opportunities and these can be promoted by the United Nations system. It also emphasizes that the cost of inaction is too high for the international community to fail.

83. The draft report, provisionally entitled "Global drylands: a United Nations system-wide response", is under final review and will be available at the tenth session of the Conference of the Parties, to be held in Changwon, Republic of Korea, in October 2011. The Issue Management Group on land will develop follow-up recommendations for a joint agenda for action on drylands and possibly land in general, by building on the findings of the report. Broadening the scope of the mandate of the Convention to cover all land would not undermine the special case for a continued focus on drylands.

VI. Addressing desertification, land degradation and drought

Land degradation control and drought mitigation offer a win-win scenario for global sustainability

A. An avenue for global benefits

84. Reversing and preventing land degradation, alongside mitigation of the effects of drought, can bring multiple benefits globally. Projects to deal with these issues contribute to sustaining agricultural productivity and food security, enhancing living conditions and alleviating poverty. They automatically assist in maintaining ecosystem services and bring benefits to biodiversity conservation and climate change adaptation and mitigation. Addressing desertification, land degradation and drought is also essential to protect forests against deforestation. In short, addressing the issues of desertification, land degradation and drought mitigation equates to a win-win scenario for global sustainability.

85. Considerable progress has been made towards the objectives of the Convention since its inception. Desertification/land degradation is now recognized as both an environmental and a developmental problem, and one of global proportions. Hence,

an understanding has emerged that the tools and policies promoted by the Convention are relevant to sustainable land management worldwide. These changes have come about thanks to our fuller appreciation of the fundamental nature of human-environment systems: that they are intimately linked and totally global.

86. In the context of the 10-year Strategy of the Convention, indicator-based reporting and results-based management have been introduced. The Convention has entered the realms of measurability in terms of impact and performance indicators but still faces some institutional, financial and science-policy challenges associated with combating land degradation and mitigating the effects of drought.

B. Building blocks for addressing desertification, land degradation and drought issues

87. Sustainability is conditional on appropriate development, and making the most of opportunities associated with addressing desertification, land degradation and drought issues means developing and implementing, through a participatory process, a suitably integrated strategy to be implemented at the national level. This strategy should:

(a) Upgrade the knowledge base, improve knowledge-sharing, and close the gap between science and development practice to make the best use of technology and foster sustainable management at the national and global levels;

(b) Reassess the total economic value of land as natural capital, to correct systemic undervaluation in national planning and policy, and improve well-being. This should be conducted at the international and national levels;

(c) Promote sustainable public investments in natural resources, to reverse their relative neglect, provide better incentives for private investment — through adequate legislation and policies — and recognize small-scale environmental investments;

(d) Turn the growth of markets into an opportunity to remove barriers to participation, and to use more efficient, accessible and equitable markets as a pathway to sustainable development. Action needs to be taken at international and national levels;

(e) Support institutional changes at the national level to strengthen rights to natural resources, reform inequitable distribution, better manage risk, and increase resilience in the human-ecological system.

Recommendation

Consider ways and means to broaden the scope of the Convention, including the option for a non-legally binding international instrument for the sustainable management of all types of land.

C. Enhance the role of the private sector in implementation of the Convention

88. Private sector involvement in the implementation of the Convention provides opportunities for strengthening the provision of financial and technological resources and capacity-building for sustainable development.

Recommendation

International institutions should serve as co-funders and brokers for private sector participation in projects to implement the Convention, for example, by facilitating public-private partnerships and ensuring that projects contribute specifically to Convention objectives.

D. Rio+20: an opportunity to set the stage for sustainable land management

89. The upcoming United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to be held in Rio de Janeiro, will focus on green economies in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication and the future institutional framework for sustainable development. Sustainable management of natural resources has already been recognized as being key for a green economy. The time is right to argue the case for efficient management of natural resources as a central element of a green economy, and the battle for poverty eradication to ensure sustainable development. All efforts should therefore be made to integrate and prioritize desertification, land degradation and drought issues on global, regional and national agendas for preparing for Rio+20 and to provide best practices on how land management can contribute to green economy.

Recommendations

- Integrate and prioritize desertification, land degradation and drought issues within green economies in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication on global, regional and national agendas in preparation for Rio+20
- Provide best practices on how sustainable land management can contribute to a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication.

E. Improve the framework for the fourth objective of the 10-year Strategy of the Convention: to mobilize resources to support the implementation of the Convention

90. The fourth objective of the Strategy is to mobilize resources to support the implementation of the Convention through building effective partnerships between national and international actors.

Recommendations

- Provide effective partnerships between national and international actors
- Enhance the Convention's means of implementation through investment/financing and access to relevant technologies
- Systematically integrate investments in sustainable land management into funds for agriculture, food security and adaptation to climate change
- Develop appropriate financial instruments beyond new and emerging forest-related initiatives and the clean development mechanism for promoting climate change mitigation through sustainable land management.

F. Strengthen the scientific base of the Convention and foster the establishment of a global authority on desertification, land degradation and drought

91. In the context of the 10-year Strategy, under operational objective 3 and the expected outcome related to science, technology and knowledge, the parties agreed that the Convention process shall become a global authority on scientific and technical knowledge pertaining to desertification/land degradation and mitigation of the effects of drought.

Recommendations

- Strengthen the scientific base of the Convention and foster the establishment of a global authority for scientific and technical knowledge pertaining to desertification, land degradation and drought issues and the improvement of networking of scientific organizations at all levels (national, subregional and regional) mobilized on desertification/land degradation and drought, on the basis of a thorough analysis of the gaps/needs in scientific matters related to these issues
- Argue the case for more investment in sustainable land management through the "Economics of desertification, land degradation and drought initiative" at the science-policy interface.

G. Make use of the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification to argue the case for desertification, land degradation and drought

92. The General Assembly has proclaimed 2010-2020 as the United Nations Decade for Desserts and the Fight against Desertification.

Recommendation

Elaborate strategies at national level and within the United Nations system to advocate for desertification, land degradation and drought.

H. Provide for an integrated United Nations-wide response to desertification, land degradation and drought issues

93. There is a need for integrated thinking and action, to maximize scarce resources and the benefits they can generate. Cooperation is needed between the Rio Convention secretariats and relevant United Nations system organizations, as well as between development organizations and the rising number of funds and bilateral and multilateral funding opportunities available to address desertification, land degradation and drought issues.

Recommendation

Encourage the United Nations system to coordinate and cooperate under the aegis of the Convention, on desertification, land degradation and drought issues.

VII. High-level meeting of the General Assembly

94. With these calls for action in mind, the following questions are suggested for consideration at the two interactive panels that will constitute the one-day high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the theme "Addressing desertification, land degradation and drought in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication", between the opening and closing plenary meetings.

Possible questions for discussion in the panels

95. Few affected countries have set up clear policies and partnerships, including the allocation of special budget lines or investment strategies, to combat desertification, land degradation and drought. In addition, there is institutional confusion regarding the administrative settings and localization of the focal points of the Rio Conventions at the national level. The necessary capacity to measure desertification, land degradation and drought and progress resulting from implementation of the Convention to Combat Desertification may also be an issue.

Question for discussion

What are effective approaches for affected countries to fully mainstream sustainable land management within the relevant national policy areas, taking into account human, institutional and financial requirements?

96. Sustainable management of land is fundamental to sustainable development. Numerous best practices exist, but large-scale implementation is rather a matter of exceptions. Incentives are needed to manage land sustainably, such as technology transfer, ecosystem service payments, security of tenure and many others. Integration into decentralized planning and decision-making processes and legal frameworks that need to be made conducive for investing in sustainable land management are required (or needed). The relevance of each will vary with circumstances, and the pathways to disseminating appropriate practices are various, including markets, Governments, the United Nations, civil society organizations, and groups of land users themselves.

Questions for discussion

What are the best ways to encourage sustainable land-use methods and who should be in charge of such incentives? How can "the forgotten billion", the poorest and food insecure people living in drylands be enabled to engage in more sustainable land management? How to mobilize the business community and the market for investing in sustainable land and ecosystem management at all levels, including through pro-poor public-private partnerships?

97. Supporting and facilitating the implementation of sustainable land management needs to be integrated more effectively into policies for cooperation and development and alignment with affected countries' policies.

Question for discussion

What mechanisms are needed in the developed countries and international financial institutions to ensure better consideration of desertification, land degradation and drought and land potentials within policies for cooperation and development?

98. The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification process has led to the adoption of the 10-year Strategy, and the ninth session of the Conference of the

Parties adopted impact and performance indicators, thus placing the implementation in the realms of measurability. While those indicators will keep refining, the situation is ripe for quantified target-setting.

Questions for discussion

How can Rio+20 foster the measurability of the implementation of the Convention by means of quantitative target setting for action at all levels? How the international community can act at global level to achieve zero net global land degradation as a global target for sustainable development through means of prevention, as well as land rehabilitation and reclamation?

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Sustainable development: protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind

Letter dated 8 June 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

As you know, Ecuador is participating actively in negotiations on climate change. In that context, it has proposed a new market mechanism for mitigation known as the "Net Avoided Emissions" (NAE) mechanism, which is submitted as an alternative to complement current efforts and enhance the cost-effectiveness of activities contributing to the mitigation targets established under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol (see annex).

Ecuador considers it vitally important that the States Members of the United Nations should be aware of this initiative, which comes within the framework of the Bali Action Plan and the Cancun Agreements.

In that connection, I should be grateful if you would arrange for this letter and its annex to be circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) Francisco **Carrión-Mena**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 8 June 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Net avoided emissions

Submission to the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention, to be considered as an input for a draft decision, or decisions, of the Conference of the Parties, for consideration at its seventeenth session

Views in connection with paragraph 81 of Decision 1/CP.16 entitled "The Cancun Agreements: Outcome of the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention" on "Various approaches, including opportunities for using markets, to enhance the cost-effectiveness of, and to promote, mitigation actions, bearing in mind different circumstances of developed and developing countries"

May 2011

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1. Introduction

1.1 Background

The Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, at its sixteenth session, requested the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention to elaborate proposals for a mechanism to enhance the cost-effectiveness of, and to promote, mitigation actions, with a view to recommending a draft decision for consideration at its seventeenth session. The said proposals were to be submitted to the secretariat of the Convention by 21 February 2011.

The mechanism to be elaborated should:

1. Ensure voluntary participation of Parties, under the principles of fair and equitable access;

2. Complement the nationally appropriate mitigation actions of developing country Parties;

3. Stimulate mitigation across broad segments of the economy;

4. Safeguard environmental integrity;

5. Ensure a net decrease in and/or avoidance of global greenhouse gas emissions;

6. Assist developed country Parties to achieve their mitigation targets, complementing the domestic mitigation efforts of those countries;

7. Ensure good governance and robust market functioning and regulation.

The proposal should demonstrate that the mechanism, and the implementation thereof, builds upon existing mechanisms, including those established under the Kyoto Protocol.

Studies undertaken by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change prove the existence of climate change, showing a continuous increase in the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, caused by anthropogenic activities with global repercussions.

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change was established in response to this global concern, with the ultimate objective of achieving stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.

Annex I countries signatory to the Kyoto Protocol have an obligation to meet their greenhouse gas emission reduction targets in the first commitment period, from 2008 to 2012. In order to facilitate their compliance with these objectives, three flexibility mechanisms were established under the Kyoto Protocol to complement the domestic actions that they are required to take.

At the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention in December 2010, the President of the Republic of Ecuador, Rafael Correa Delgado, introduced the concept of net avoided emissions, with the aim of making an innovative and viable proposal that would contribute to real climate change mitigation.

Against this backdrop, Ecuador is proposing the establishment of a new alternative market mechanism, the Net Avoided Emissions (NAE) mechanism, which is submitted as an alternative to complement current efforts and enhance the cost-effectiveness of activities contributing to the mitigation envisaged under the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol.

The NAE mechanism is consistent with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. It could also facilitate the achievement of objectives under other conventions, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, among others.

Net avoided emissions are the emissions that could be generated within the economy of a given country but are avoided. The avoided emissions result in a net positive balance of reduced emissions, at the national and global levels, which should be compensated. The concept complements the compensation available through the mechanisms proposed under the Kyoto Protocol as well as the mechanism for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, plus conservation (REDD-plus). Because the NAE mechanism involves a cross-sectoral approach, it is not limited to any one specific sector and covers economic activities that involve the exploitation, use and development of renewable and non-renewable resources. The NAE mechanism is in fact a comprehensive concept that significantly increases the opportunities for compensation for mitigation services.

The economic value associated with the provision of net avoided emissions services makes both environmental and economic sense. The central idea of the NAE mechanism is to allow the promotion and incentivization of activities with positive social potential. In environmental terms, the NAE mechanism makes it possible to avoid destruction, degradation and/or contamination of the environment. In economic terms, compensation for net avoided emissions, like all compensation for generating or maintaining environmental assets, is based on the need to compensate the generation of value, and not only of goods, in order to maximize social well-being and sustainable development, which, because they are open access goods, do not have explicit market prices.

This proposal covers the following themes:

- Background
- Core concept
- General objective of the NAE mechanism
- Specific objectives of the NAE mechanism
- General information on the proposal
- Design of the mechanism
- Method of implementation
- Complementarity with other mechanisms
- Conclusions

1.2 Core concept: Net avoided emissions

In the context of international negotiations on climate change, under the Bali Action Plan and in accordance with Decision 1/CP.16 of the Cancun Agreements, Ecuador is proposing a new market mechanism for mitigation known as the "Net Avoided Emissions" (NAE) mechanism.

This mechanism is defined as a voluntary market-based model[1] with a programmatic and cross-sectoral focus. Net avoided emissions are the greenhouse gas emissions which could be generated, based on a developing country's current economic capacity, but are not emitted. In other words, the NAE mechanism provides the opportunity to generate economic value associated with avoided emissions services, equivalent to the total price of the tons of carbon not emitted, traded on the current carbon market or other markets created for that purpose.

The NAE mechanism promotes fair and equitable access for all developing country Parties, stimulates the implementation of mitigation activities across broad segments of the economy, and is supplemental to the domestic mitigation efforts of developed countries.

Furthermore, the NAE mechanism has a social and environmental value in developing countries, since, by avoiding emissions, it promotes well-being in human settlements, and the preservation of their traditions, cultures and ways of life, among other aspects of the natural, social and cultural heritage. Its environmental value is linked to the preservation of ecosystems, sustainable management of natural resources and protection of biodiversity, as well as its role in preventing the destruction of nature and degradation of environmental quality.

1.3 General objective of the proposed mechanism

The general objective of the proposed mechanism is to increase mitigation opportunities in developing countries, by guaranteeing the necessary incentives for the implementation of activities that contribute to the avoidance of emissions and to a real net reduction in emissions, as well as to the consequent achievement of the overall objective of reducing emissions in order to stabilize the climate system.

1.4 Specific objectives of the proposed mechanism

- Enhance the cost-effectiveness of mitigation activities under the Convention
- Provide an alternative that brings together the existing flexibility mechanisms established under the Kyoto Protocol, from the perspective of action under the new long-term cooperation approach.

[1] The NAE mechanism could also be used on a non-market basis.

2. About the mechanism

2.1 Design

2.1.1 Method of compensation and its financial value

Compensation under the mechanism will be provided through the creation of a new asset. The financial value of the asset will be equivalent to the total price of the tons of carbon dioxide (CO_2) not emitted, traded on the current carbon market or other markets established for that purpose. The tons of carbon dioxide not emitted will correspondingly be termed "tons of carbon dioxide equivalent" (CO_2e). The resulting assets will be tradable and will carry defined ownership rights for buyers and sellers.

In economic terms, the NAE mechanism, like all incentives for generating or maintaining environmental assets or services, is based on the need to provide for viable economic compensation that fosters the establishment of socially beneficial values. This approach seeks to define institutional arrangements that allow social well-being and sustainable development to be maximized.

The developing country implementing the NAE mechanism will be compensated by means of a financial asset known as an "NAE unit", justified on the basis of the avoidance of economic activities that generate greenhouse gas emissions or actions aimed at reducing emissions from those economic activities that generate them.

NAE units may be traded directly between buyers and sellers in the form of tradable documents bought and sold:

- under a binding agreement between the parties (for example through a fiduciary or trust fund);
- on the carbon market under the Kyoto Protocol;
- through other market mechanisms established for that purpose.

The buyers will be developed countries and those that, under the Convention, have voluntarily announced independent quantified mitigation targets to cut emissions or curb emissions growth. The NAE mechanism will help them to achieve their emissions reduction goals and targets, under the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. Consequently, the sellers under the NAE mechanism will be developing countries that: (i) have marginal greenhouse gas emissions; (ii) are seeking to transform their economies from dependence on extractive industries to the export of services and values; (iii) have rich biodiversity and ancestral cultures; and (iv) undertake to invest the financial resources generated by the NAE mechanism in climate change mitigation and adaptation measures.

2.1.2 International level: sustainability and synergies (criteria of the various conventions)

The NAE mechanism facilitates the attainment of objectives established under other conventions that have synergies with the Convention and its objectives. Essentially, the rules of the NAE mechanism contain clear guidelines for developing country Parties on meeting requirements for the protection and preservation of

biodiversity and endangered species, as well as the rights and processes inherent to indigenous civil society, communities, peoples and nationalities, including their knowledge, culture and development expectations.

The following conventions offer synergies with the NAE mechanism, as well as other international instruments in force:

- Convention on Biological Diversity
  - contributes to the objectives of the Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity study
- United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- Ramsar Convention (Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat)

In order to ensure the sustainability of the proposal, it is necessary to:

- Guarantee the establishment of a market-based model under the Convention that ensures the operation of the mechanism and includes binding obligations under the same Convention
- Guarantee competitiveness in the carbon market
- Demonstrate the associated social and environmental benefits
- Incorporate robust measurement, reporting and verification mechanisms.

The sustainability of the mechanism is related to the establishment of a voluntary long-term cooperation agreement under the Convention. Its sustainability is also linked to the emissions reduction commitments of developed countries and those countries that, under the Convention, have voluntarily announced independent quantified mitigation targets to cut emissions or curb emissions growth, as well as to the legal provisions guaranteeing the commitment of all Parties to achieve the objective of the Convention.

2.1.3 National level: scope

This mechanism is not limited to a specific activity or a particular sector of the economy, but covers economic activities that involve the comprehensive exploitation, use and development of renewable and non-renewable natural resources, and entails compensation for avoiding emissions and for taking actions to reduce emissions in any sector of the economy. In the area of renewable resources, for example, it is not limited to deforestation and degradation of forests, but could also be applied, inter alia, to changes in land use. Since it is a flexible mechanism that can be adapted to different economic sectors, it can therefore be seen as an inclusive proposal in which all Parties can participate, on a voluntary basis, bearing in mind their respective capacities and national circumstances.

The sectors to be covered by the mechanism will be defined at the national level, in accordance with each country's priorities and strategic economic sectors.

2.1.4 Governance and institutional arrangements

An Executive Committee established under the Convention and reporting to the Conference of the Parties will have principal responsibility for the operation and governance of the mechanism.

When the NAE mechanism is first launched, a Transitional Committee will be established, with equal representation from developed and developing countries. This Committee will propose the rules and procedures for the new mechanism, for subsequent adoption by the Conference of the Parties.

At the international level, the aim is for the mechanism to be included among the governance models already established under the Convention for the implementation of specific mechanisms (such as the Clean Development Mechanism). A body reporting directly to the Executive Committee will also be designated to verify compliance with the guidelines and procedures established for the NAE mechanism.

Furthermore, the Convention secretariat will keep a record of countries participating in the NAE mechanism and actions undertaken within its framework. In the same way, at the national level, an institution must be established to serve as the "designated national authority" to approve and coordinate the implementation of the NAE mechanism (as is the case with the existing mechanisms).

2.2 Method of implementation

2.2.1 Definition of baseline and limits by sectors

1. Baseline

The Transitional Committee will develop the requirements and parameters for the methodologies applicable to calculation of the baseline. Developing countries wishing to participate in the NAE mechanism will be required to comply with the requirements and parameters developed.

Each country, according to the type of economic activity, will develop a specific methodology based on the particular characteristics that need to be taken into account for the calculation of emissions avoided by the specific mitigation activities for that economic activity. The methodology developed will be validated by means of mechanisms determined by the Transitional Committee and adopted by the Conference of the Parties.

2. Emissions scenarios

To determine the tons of carbon equivalent that will not be emitted under the NAE mechanism, two emissions scenarios must be established:

"*Business as usual" scenario* — these are the emissions that would be generated by carrying out a given economic activity.

Avoided emissions scenario — these are the emissions that would not be generated or would be avoided by not carrying out a given economic activity.

3. Cost analysis

In order to establish the scale of the activities that will not be carried out in the national economy and relate them to the emissions avoided as a result, the economic value of the activity must be determined, based on the net profit or return that would have been generated from it. The above must include a cost analysis that takes into account the following variables:

- Opportunity costs
- Financial costs
- Transaction costs
- Net present value of the activity not carried out
- Revenue from the transaction in NAE units and their CO_2 equivalents.

2.2.2 Measurement, reporting and verification

Measurement, reporting and verification activities must be defined according to the sectors and activities identified for the implementation of the NAE mechanism at the national level.

Each Party should develop its own measurement, reporting and verification methodologies, which should be in line with the guidelines established by the Committee for the mechanism (where appropriate, the most recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change guidelines will be used).

The measurement, reporting and verification system will correspond to the proposed scenarios and the corresponding baselines.

2.2.3 Environmental integrity: leakage, additionality and permanence

Developing country Parties wishing to participate in the NAE mechanism, subject to the binding instruments of the Convention and the oversight of panels of experts, may establish guarantees and clear terms of reference regarding the activities under the mechanism and the benefits deriving from them, as well as methodologies for determining the economic threshold of viability for the activities associated with the compensation of an NAE unit.

In the mechanism, permanence will be determined by the economic viability of compensating the country for the activity that was not carried out, according to the model described above, as well as the length of time during which the activity would have needed to be continued in order to maximize the economic benefits that would have been generated under the "business as usual" scenario.

If the mechanism includes a cross-sectoral approach and net emissions balances at the national and global level, it will also be possible to take leakage into account.

With regard to additionality, the mechanism offers value added, since, in its absence, emissions associated with economic activities in developing countries would be generated. Furthermore, the mechanism complements the greenhouse gas emission sequestration and reduction services of the existing mechanisms under the Convention and the avoided emissions will therefore be additional to the reduction of global net emissions that can already be achieved.

3. Complementarity with other mechanisms

The flexibility mechanisms under the Kyoto Protocol do not result in a net reduction of emissions released into the atmosphere. They only reduce the rate of build-up and growth in greenhouse gas emissions and, consequently, do not reduce the concentration of such gases in the atmosphere.

The NAE mechanism, on the other hand, proposes a more ambitious target, consisting of the avoidance of emissions that could be generated in the economy and under the law of each country, or the reduction of the emissions that exist within each country's economy. Unlike other mechanisms, the rules of the NAE mechanism include, as value added, the protection and preservation of biodiversity and the rights and processes inherent to indigenous peoples, including their knowledge, culture and development expectations, as well as other national heritage resources that the implementing Parties value in economic, environmental, social and cultural terms. Furthermore, the mechanism requires that the economic resources obtained as compensation by the developing countries implementing the mechanism should be allocated to the financing of climate change mitigation and adaptation measures.

The mechanism also contributes to the transition that is needed, in Ecuador and throughout the world, in order to implement a new economic development model that promotes non-use values and provides financial compensation for the mitigation of climate change.

Bearing this in mind, the NAE mechanism not only complements current mechanisms, facilitating the attainment of objectives established under other conventions that have synergies with the Convention and its objectives, but it also brings together all the mechanisms that currently exist under the Kyoto Protocol, and in which the developing countries are involved.

4. Conclusions

The NAE mechanism is a cost-effective alternative for stabilizing climate change, by means of which Parties with marginal emissions, or with growth patterns low in greenhouse gas emissions, would be able to maximize that potential by receiving financial compensation from Parties with growth patterns high in greenhouse gas emissions.

The NAE mechanism brings together the flexibility mechanisms established under the Kyoto Protocol, from the perspective of action under the new long-term cooperation approach. It is not limited to a specific sector but covers all the economic activities that the developing country is capable of developing at the time it decides to apply the mechanism. Since it is implemented as a market-based mechanism, it guarantees compensation for the activity not carried out, which contributes to a net reduction in emissions and, consequently, to the achievement of the global objective of reducing emissions to stabilize the climate system.

If the "business as usual" scenario is maintained, the objective of temperature stabilization will be impossible to achieve. It is therefore important to highlight both the necessity and the adequacy of the proposed mechanism for reducing emissions associated with activities that are not carried out and achieving a transition to

economies that guarantee sustainable development based on patterns of low greenhouse gas emissions.

The implementation of this mechanism would have a dramatic impact, since it would allow many countries, for example mega-diverse countries, to transform their economies and establish them on the basis of bioknowledge and environmental services, taking into account the principle of co-responsibility in the management of global public goods, such as the atmosphere.

4.1 Additional benefits of the mechanism

Realizing the objective of the NAE mechanism in an effective and balanced way will allow a number of benefits to be achieved. In particular, it will be possible to:

- Prevent environmental degradation arising from the exploitation of renewable and non-renewable natural resources that generate greenhouse gas emissions
- Contribute in parallel to a reduction in the CO_2 emissions caused by various economic activities
- Contribute to the protection of the natural heritage, biodiversity and ecosystem functions
- Facilitate the maintenance of natural cycles, especially the carbon cycle
- Protect and recover habitats, particularly in mega-diverse countries with unmet basic needs
- Preserve ecosystems for human habitats
- Improve the living standards of populations in order for them to receive direct benefits that in turn lead to the sustainable preservation of renewable and non-renewable natural resources
- Foster intergenerational equity in order to ensure a safe environment for current and future generations, and equitable access to global public goods such as atmospheric space.

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Agenda item 20
Sustainable development

Letter dated 6 June 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Tajikistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the information contained in document A/65/842, entitled "Water resources are the basis for sustainable development and future progress", which was disseminated at the United Nations by the delegation of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

This document subjectively examines the use of water resources and the development of hydropower in the Aral Sea basin and is a one-sided reflection of the outcome of the conference entitled "Towards the Sixth World Water Forum — cooperative actions for water security", held in Tashkent on 12 and 13 May 2011. In that connection, I have the honour to bring to your attention the comments of Tajikistan on the aforementioned document (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly under agenda item 20.

(*Signed*) Sirodjidin **Aslov**
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Tajikistan
to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 6 June 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Tajikistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Comments on the letter dated 16 May 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the United Nations, entitled "Water resources are the basis for sustainable development and future progress"

1. It is difficult to overestimate the importance of water for development, the maintenance of peace and stability and environmental sustainability. In recent decades, as the world economy has developed and the population of the Earth has increased, water has become an increasingly acute issue. Global climate change, which is causing a further reduction in water resources, is making this a doubly difficult challenge. For this reason, and because of the particular importance of this strategic resource and a deep awareness of growing water challenges, the international community now attaches particular importance to addressing these issues. Establishing and developing mutually advantageous and fair cooperation on water issues should be central to this process. It is on the basis of these considerations that the Republic of Tajikistan sponsored General Assembly resolutions 55/196, entitled "International Year of Freshwater, 2003", 58/217, entitled "International Decade for Action, 'Water for Life', 2005-2015" and 65/154, entitled "International Year of Water Cooperation, 2013", which were adopted by consensus.

2. It is well known that there are upwards of 260 watercourses in the world that cross the borders of two or more States. They cover 45 per cent of the inland areas where more than 40 per cent of the world's population lives. There are 145 countries with international river basins, and the well-being of their populations largely depends on well-managed water cooperation. A lack of appropriate cooperation leads to significant risks and losses. When cooperation is lacking, many problems go unresolved and may at times become more acute. Ultimately, all of this adversely affects the economic and social situations of every country sharing a river basin. The peace, stability and development of many countries sharing water resources is almost entirely dependent on the nature of their relations with other States. In many regions of the world, the strengthening of transboundary water cooperation promotes and facilitates the enhanced integration processes that are a principal factor in harmonious development.

3. Central Asia is no exception in this regard. The countries of the region share the water resources of two major rivers, the Amu Darya and the Syr Darya, as well as those of several small transboundary watercourses. There is no doubt that progress would be impossible without appropriate cooperation for the management and use of these resources, especially given that a significant portion of the region's water resources originate in the territories of certain States, while other States account for maximum water use. The foundation for regional cooperation on water resource use and management was laid when the countries of the region were at the earliest stages of their independence. The first fundamental regional legal instrument in this area was established by the signature on 18 February 1992 in Almaty, Kazakhstan, of the Agreement between the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and the Republic of

Uzbekistan on cooperation for the joint management, use and protection of interstate water resources. The Interstate Commission for Water Coordination of Central Asia (ICWC), which distributes water resources among the countries of the region, was established on the basis of that Agreement. Slightly later, in 1993, the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea was established to address integrated water management challenges in the Aral Sea basin. The Fund was created through the efforts of all the Heads of State of the region, in order to mitigate the Aral Sea crisis.

4. It is widely acknowledged that the Central Asian region experienced a major environmental crisis in the second half of the twentieth century, with the desiccation of the Aral Sea. The amount of water being drawn from the two main rivers in the region, the Amu Darya and the Syr Darya, doubled following the extensive reclamation of newly irrigated land, whose area increased in a relatively short period of time from 4 million to more than 8 million hectares. This led to a sharp decline in flow into the Aral Sea, as a result of which the Sea has now lost more than 90 per cent of its volume and 80 per cent of its area.

5. The area of irrigated land increased mainly in downstream countries, whose lowlands provided suitable conditions for the development of irrigation-based agriculture. Uzbekistan accounts for more than half of all irrigated land in the Aral Sea basin and, accordingly, it uses the lion's share of the region's water resources (approximately 60 per cent).

6. During the Soviet period, in order to preserve the Sea, certain quotas were established for the amount of water that should reach the Sea from both rivers. For example, the integrated water resource management plans for the Amu Darya and Syr Darya allocated an average of 6.42 cubic kilometres to the Aral Sea per year.

7. Water in the countries of the Aral Sea basin continues to be allocated on the basis of these plans even today, with the Aral Sea being allocated an enormous amount of water each year as a separate water consumer. According to ICWC data, the water supply to the Aral Sea and the surrounding area from 1992 until 2010 was around 258 billion cubic metres, or an average of 14.3 billion cubic metres per year. This volume of water allocated to the Aral Sea by ICWC is almost double the annual amount of water that the Republic of Tajikistan draws from the Amu Darya basin.

8. Furthermore, the Republic of Tajikistan does not utilize 1.6 cubic kilometres of its allocation and, factoring in return flow, that figure exceeds 5 cubic kilometres. Simple arithmetic shows that, factoring in unused allocations, at least an additional 10 cubic kilometres of water should flow into the Aral Sea every year. If we rely on the information submitted by Uzbekistan, indicating that annual water intake in Uzbekistan has fallen from 65 to 52 cubic kilometres, the Sea should be receiving an additional 13 cubic kilometres of water every year.

9. However, a completely different picture emerges in practice. The Aral Sea does not receive either the water allocated to it or the water unused by Tajikistan. This is because a significant amount of water is lost as a result of the poor performance of irrigation systems, which are only 30 to 40 per cent efficient. The greatest filtration losses and the lowest levels of performance can be seen midstream and downstream of the Amu Darya. In the last three years alone, the run-off loss in this section has been 32 cubic kilometres, or over 10 cubic kilometres per year, which is almost three times the rate of loss in Soviet times. Studies have shown that

only 20 per cent of all water is being used productively and the remaining 80 per cent is irreversibly lost.

10. The enormous number of reservoirs that have been built or are under construction across vast expanses downstream is also having a significant impact on the desiccation of the Aral Sea. Over a hundred such reservoirs have been built or are now operational, holding a total of 140 cubic kilometres of water. This is more than one and a half times the volume of water in the Aral Sea. Furthermore, factoring in the Aydarkul-Arnasay and Sarykamish lake system (40 and 46 cubic kilometres respectively) and other artificial lakes containing wastewater and drainage water, Uzbekistan's reservoirs hold the same amount of water as that currently found in the Aral Sea.

11. It should however be noted that, as a result of the desiccation of the Aral Sea, every year thousands of tons of salt are whipped up by winds from the dry seabed and spread throughout the basin and beyond. Some of this salt also falls on the region's glaciers and snowfields, which, combined with global warming, causes them to melt more quickly. Experts consider that the glacial resources of the region decreased by almost 30 per cent in the twentieth century. There are also alarming long-term forecasts pointing to the further melting of glaciers and, consequently, to a change in river flow from a negligible amount (5-10 per cent) to an extremely significant amount (10-40 per cent). The accelerated melting of glaciers poses additional risks to sustainable development and to energy and food security.

12. In view of the obvious nature of these facts, it is surprising that the death of the Aral Sea is being blamed on hydropower plants of Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan that are merely users, rather than consumers, of water.

13. In order to overcome the Aral Sea crisis, which in our view has now become an overly politicized issue, the countries of the region must not only invest widely in the water sector and reduce the scope of irrigated land with water-absorbing crops, they must also show the political will needed to carry out joint and long-term action for the rational use of water and energy resources throughout the Aral Sea basin. Tajikistan therefore proposed that a comprehensive assessment should be carried out of the entire system of water use in Central Asia under the aegis of the United Nations, including the efficient and effective operation of all existing reservoirs and a comprehensive survey of the environmental situation in the region. General Assembly resolution 63/133 on granting observer status to the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea in the General Assembly was also adopted at the initiative of the Republic of Tajikistan.

14. Freshwater resources around the world, particularly in the Central Asian region, have decreased in recent decades as a result of climate change and the lack of water resources is becoming increasingly acute. It is obvious that water challenges can only be addressed by taking into account the relationship between water resources, energy and food security, and climate change. The key to a successful solution is factoring in these main aspects of global and regional water challenges, today and tomorrow. The development of hydropower in Central Asia could clearly help to comprehensively address many contemporary and future challenges facing the region.

15. For over a decade, the Republic of Tajikistan has been living with crippling energy shortages in the winter months. In the coldest period of the year, the

population has access to electricity only two to three hours a day, and in some districts there is no electricity for two to three months in a row. This has an extremely negative impact on the socio-economic situation in the country. The efforts of the Government of Tajikistan to find a way out of the energy crisis have been entirely undermined by the Republic of Uzbekistan's policy of blocking the transit of electricity from Turkmenistan to Tajikistan, despite the fact that the Governments of Tajikistan and Turkmenistan have signed a bilateral agreement for the necessary amount of electricity to be supplied in the autumn and winter months. Such action runs contrary to General Assembly resolution 63/210, entitled "Reliable and stable transit of energy and its role in ensuring sustainable development and international cooperation", whose sponsors include all the countries of Central Asia.

16. Given the complexity of the situation, it is also very disappointing that, instead of receiving understanding and support, the Republic of Tajikistan has been the object of systematic and unfounded attacks. Unfortunately, our calls for the joint development of Tajikistan's enormous hydropower potential, in order to supply the countries of the region with accessible, affordable and environmentally friendly energy and a reliable water supply for land irrigation, have not been properly understood.

17. Above all, this concerns the Rogun hydropower plant project, over 40 per cent of which was completed during the Soviet era. The right of the Republic of Tajikistan to complete the construction of this hydropower facility is protected by intergovernmental agreements concluded with Central Asian countries in the post-Soviet period. Nonetheless, in view of the need to ensure transparency and openness and to safeguard common regional interests, the Republic of Tajikistan, acting in good faith, requested the World Bank to conduct a Techno-Economic Assessment Study and a Environmental and Social Impact Assessment of the project. International consultants are currently working on these Rogun Assessment Studies and the World Bank has set up a parallel panel of experts and has launched a new mechanism for discussing this project at the regional level with other States in the region. The Republic of Tajikistan, guided by the principles of good-neighbourliness, mutually beneficial cooperation and respect for the interests of neighbouring countries, took an unprecedented step in agreeing to adopt these new approaches for the implementation of the project. Furthermore, the Government of Tajikistan sent the Governments of all countries in the region letters to that effect, proposing that they form an international consortium in order to build this important plant.

18. The construction of the Rogun hydropower plant was envisaged in the aforementioned integrated water resource management plan for the Amu Darya river, which continues to serve as the main instrument for water allocation among countries of the basin. The Rogun complex is designed to improve water supply to over 3 million hectares of irrigated land in countries downstream of the Amu Darya during times of low rainfall or drought, thereby ensuring long-term water, energy and food security. In particular, the plan for the Amu Darya river noted the following: "The deadline for the commissioning of the Rogun reservoir is very important for the Amu Darya river basin since, from 1986 onwards, consumer demand on Amu Darya water resources will exceed the river's seasonal regulation capacity during low-water years. Thus, until the Rogun reservoir becomes operational, a number of low-water years might place a strain on water resources management in the basin".

19. Furthermore, the hydropower plant has the capacity to generate over 13 billion kWh of cheap and clean energy, which could satisfy the growing needs not only of Tajikistan but also of other countries in the region. This would make it possible to conserve oil, gas and coal deposits, which are being mined intensively by countries in the region for power generation, and could also significantly reduce harmful gas emissions. In the course of one year, a thermal power plant with generation capacity equal to that of the Rogun hydropower plant (3,600 MW) uses over 10 million tons of coal and releases over 25 million tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. The Rogun reservoir would also help prevent such extreme hydrological events as freshets, mudflows and floods, which cause enormous damage in almost all basin countries every year. For example, in 2010 alone, Tajikistan sustained over $600 million in damage from mudflows and flooding.

20. With regard to the safety of the dam at the Rogun hydropower complex, authoritative institutions have conducted several assessments confirming that a high-altitude rockfill dam with a clay core provides the most reliable and robust structure with the lowest risks. For example, in 2005 the academician Sabit Negmatullaev prepared a report on seismicity and seismic hazard at the Rogun dam of behalf of the Tashkent-based enterprise "Gidroproekt". The report, based on 500 years of seismic data in Tajikistan, confirmed that there had not been any earthquakes with a magnitude of over 6.0 within the construction zone.

21. The above has clearly been corroborated by the 40 years of successful operating experience at the 300-metre-high Nurek hydropower plant, which is analogous to the Rogun plant and located in a geologically similar area. In October 2009, the International Commission on Large Dams conferred a special distinction on the Nurek dam, awarding it a certificate of quality as an "engineering milestone". The unique experience gained from the application of new technologies at the Nurek dam will also be used in the construction of the dam at the Rogun hydropower plant. Nonetheless, the issue of seismic hazard is under careful consideration in the context of the ongoing Rogun Assessment Studies.

22. Despite the clear benefits from the Rogun hydropower plant to the countries of Central Asia and a number of countries in South Asia, as well as the transparency and legality of the measures undertaken by the Government of Tajikistan in order to complete construction in accordance with the basic principles and norms of international law and the interests of riparian States, the Republic of Uzbekistan has pursued an unprecedented campaign to discredit this project through public statements, media appearances and recourse to international bodies.

23. One such example was the purported international conference entitled "Transboundary environmental problems in Central Asia: the use of international legal mechanisms to solve them", held in Tashkent on 16 and 17 November 2010. As a firm advocate of discussing the challenges facing Central Asian countries openly and constructively, particularly with respect to water, energy and the environment, the Republic of Tajikistan had intended to participate actively in the work of the conference and to contribute towards its success. Most regrettably, however, and despite the declared international nature of the event, the conference organizers did not consider it necessary to invite their Tajik colleagues to attend. This necessarily calls into question the stated goals and objectives of the event, and its transparency and objectivity. Such events, which prevent all interested parties from participating in them in an equitable manner, contravene the purposes and

principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and the provisions of international environmental conventions and other international legal instruments. Their purpose is to undermine regional cooperation in Central Asia.

24. The Republic of Tajikistan has consistently supported the further development and strengthening of regional cooperation and partnership; it believes that the challenges facing Central Asia, particularly with respect to water, energy and the environment, should be addressed through dialogue and negotiations, in compliance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations; and Tajikistan is making every effort to achieve sustainable development, well-being and prosperity in the region. Guided by these same intentions and purposes, a delegation from Tajikistan took part in the recent conference held in Tashkent entitled "Towards the Sixth World Water Forum — cooperative actions for water security". The conference, convened to develop a coordinated position among all Central Asian countries on priorities issues at the World Water Forum, ostensibly became an instrument of coercion against upstream countries, namely Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, through a one-sided and distorted assessment of the significance of the hydropower projects under way in those countries.

25. It is surprising that the very topic of harmonizing energy and water, one of the 12 key priorities of the Sixth World Water Forum and one of the most pressing issues for the region, was completely ignored by the conference organizers when drawing up the programme of activities. Also of note was the uncharacteristic approach taken by the event organizers, who invited only "convenient" participants. For example, three experts from Tajikistan were denied entry visas to Uzbekistan.

26. The one-sidedness of the conference was also evident from the format and topics of the round tables, for which representatives of the host country were the main speakers. Furthermore, contrary to the norms and standards for the conduct of such events, no time was set aside for an open discussion of the presentations. The content of the round tables was also completely different from their titles. For example, in the context of the round table entitled "Risk management and water security", which should have discussed a broad range of pressing issues facing the region, the organizers focused their presentations exclusively on the topic of ensuring the safety of hydropower facilities, primarily those located in Tajikistan. While the organizers went to great lengths to distance themselves from discussing the use of water and energy resources in the region, most discussions at the conference did address this topic. However, the conference outcome document failed to include a single sentence to reflect the conclusions of those discussions. The document compiled by the organizers was distributed virtually at the start of the concluding plenary meeting, and participants were not given an opportunity to examine its contents or offer their comments and suggestions. Since the interrelationship between water and energy policy, which is key to resolving the region's water resource problem, was ignored, and in view of the distorted picture given of international water law in favour of certain countries, the delegation of Tajikistan was compelled to oppose the adoption of the conference outcome document. Thus, a conference convened to develop coordinated and joint measures in order to address the region's priority water problems was in fact held in an unconstructive atmosphere, owing to the one-sided approach of its organizers. This aspect of the conference was not reflected in the letter from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Uzbekistan addressed to the General Assembly.

27. Inexplicably, despite the Rogun Assessment Studies being conducted by the World Bank, Uzbekistan's representatives have continued to call for an international assessment of the project. It is unclear how the international assessment being conducted by the World Bank differs from the one being requested by Uzbekistan. However, it is clear that Uzbekistan is unjustifiably doing everything it can to entirely halt the completion of a project that is important to Tajikistan and the region as a whole.

28. This was evident once again from the refusal by the official delegation of the Republic of Uzbekistan to participate in discussions on the Rogun hydropower project at the first meeting of riparian countries, held under the aegis of the World Bank in Almaty, Kazakhstan, on 17 to 19 May 2011. It is incomprehensible how the Republic of Tajikistan can be accused by a country of unilaterally constructing hydropower facilities and violating the basic norms and principles of international water law while, at the same time, that country ignores a multilateral meeting designed to harmonize the positions of all States in the region with respect to that issue. Such a position clearly does not reflect the norms and principles of international law, much less the spirit of friendly and good-neighbourly relations.

29. The Republic of Tajikistan believes that it is only through timely and coordinated efforts that the countries of the region will collectively be able to address contemporary challenges and find the right solutions to existing and emerging problems. Region-wide approaches to water and energy resource use in Central Asia will contribute towards more effective water resource management. This will help to ensure water, energy and food security, economic growth, greater overall prosperity and, more generally, the sustainable development of the entire region.

30. The Republic of Tajikistan clearly and fully recognizes that progress on water and energy resource use will be impossible without appropriate cooperation. To that end, it is determined to continue cooperating with all interested parties and, first and foremost, with the countries of the region, in accordance with the universally recognized purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and existing intergovernmental agreements.

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Sixty-fifth session
Agenda item 115
Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

Letter dated 13 June 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement of the Chair of the Millennium Development Goals follow-up meeting, held in Tokyo on 2 and 3 June 2011, at which fruitful discussions were held on effective ways to accelerate progress towards the achievement of the Goals (see annex).

The meeting was co-organized by the Government of Japan, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund, the World Bank and the Japan International Cooperation Agency.

I would be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 115.

(*Signed*) Tsuneo **Nishida**
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 13 June 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement of the Chair of the Millennium Development Goals follow-up meeting

Tokyo, 3 June 2011

Introduction

1. Representatives of several States and Governments, international and regional organizations, the private sector, academic institutions and civil society organizations, met in Tokyo on 2 and 3 June 2011, to attend the Millennium Development Goals follow-up meeting, co-organized by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Bank and the Japan International Cooperation Agency. The meeting was held to build upon the outcome of the United Nations High-level Plenary Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals, held in September 2010, at which world leaders reaffirmed their commitment to reaching the Goals and adopted the action-oriented outcome document. The meeting was held at the ministerial/representative level in order to maintain and further drive political momentum towards the achievement of the Goals by 2015.

2. The follow-up meeting was held after the earthquake and tsunami that struck Japan in March 2011. The participants pledged their solidarity with Japan and its peoples and had no doubt that the country would recover from the devastating effects of that tragedy. The participants stressed that solidarity shown by the international community at a time of crisis can be essential in addressing global challenges.

3. The participants acknowledged that while significant progress had been made by the global community, there remained much to be done in order to accelerate that progress towards 2015, by reaching out to the poor and marginalized. In that regard, the participants took note of the communiqué of the Ministerial Follow-up Meeting to the Third Tokyo International Conference on African Development, held in Dakar on 1 and 2 May 2011, which reflects the perspective of both the African countries and their development partners, and recognizes the importance of efforts towards the achievement of the Goals. The participants also acknowledged that the Goals were central to the mission of the United Nations in its advancement of development, peace and human rights in the would and that the actions of the international community must demonstrate the political will and determination to fulfil the promise that the world's leaders have made.

4. The participants recognized the importance of the follow-up meeting, which provided a unique occasion for renewed political will and momentum and to fulfil commitments to achieve tangible results, including by sharing ideas and identifying best practices for accelerating progress towards the achievement of the Goals by 2015, including by reaching out to the poor and marginalized. It also provided an opportunity to begin discussions beyond 2015, by identifying sustainable interventions that would continue to yield results in the longer term.

Effective approaches for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals

Equity

Issues to be highlighted

Inequalities and disparities based on various overarching factors slow down progress towards the achievement of the Goals

Key elements

- Focusing on what works in which context
- Considering which partnerships and coordination mechanisms may be required to achieve results
- Reaching out to the poor and marginalized
- Tracking progress and sharing best practices and lessons learned

5. The participants recognized that progress towards the achievement of the Goals had been slowed by inequalities and disparities such as those based on geography, social injustices, social exclusion and marginalization, poverty, underdevelopment and all forms of discrimination.

6. The participants also recognized that the focus should be placed on what works in which context and which partnerships and coordination mechanisms might be required to achieve the desired results. The participants re-emphasized the importance of ownership in development, which is one of the pillars of the 2006 Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. In that respect, all participants in development efforts must aim to produce measurable results, which should be duly reported to citizens of all nations.

7. In that connection, identifying and focusing on certain specific actions in country contexts, such as least developed countries, crisis or conflict countries and middle-income countries, was important for the achievement of the Goals, particularly by reaching out to the poor and marginalized. In that regard, the participants welcomed the adoption of the Programme of Action of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, which provided positive momentum for the sustainable developments of least developed countries. Many least developed countries have made progress over the past decade in the fields of good governance, the rule of law, the protection and promotion of human rights and democratic participation. That progress needs to be further enhanced, with greater priority given to governance issues. Sharing best practices and lessons learned in relation to contexts was the best way to identify which interventions are most sustainable and would continue to yield results in the longer term.

Accelerating progress of off-track Goals

Issues to be highlighted

- Recognizing that the experience of the past 10 years showed that sound progress on the Goals was possible
- Recognizing that accelerating the progress of off-track Goals was possible with a concerted effort and that tools existed for facilitating this

Key elements

- Nationally owned and led initiatives
- Diagnostics of bottlenecks and obstacles with broad stakeholder engagement
- Prioritized, high impact solutions that maximize progress, including reaching out to the poor and marginalized
- Coordinated approaches to implementing action plans at the national and subnational levels

8. The participants recognized that progress among countries was often mixed. In almost all countries there had been sound progress on some of the Goals while progress on others was lagging. They also recognized that accelerating the progress of off-track Goals was possible with a concerted effort and that tools existed for facilitating this. Experience accumulated within and across countries had demonstrated many good practices and sound approaches.

9. Experience indicates that nationally owned and led initiatives are key to progress. The presence of bottlenecks and obstacles can be diagnosed through broad stakeholder engagement. Using the knowledge of good practices, it is possible to develop prioritized high-impact solutions to the most important bottlenecks, including reaching out to the poor and marginalized, so that their removal will result in accelerated progress towards achieving the Goals. This requires coherent and coordinated approaches to, among others, partner country-led action plans to accelerate the achievement of the Goals, supported by development partners at both the national and subnational levels.

Key accelerators

Accelerating results in health and related Goals

Issues to be highlighted

- Maternal, newborn and child health is one of the most pressing challenges where globally concerted efforts are urgently needed
- Progress made on other health-related Goals such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria must be sustained and extended

- Non-communicable diseases are emerging global challenges that threaten the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, up to and beyond 2015

Key elements

- Effective package of interventions to be delivered, including nutrition, by ensuring a continuum of care
- Delivering evidence-based, cost-effective and population-wide interventions and strengthening health-care systems, including achieving universal coverage, are effective approaches not only for addressing non-communicable diseases but also for achieving the Goals
- Strengthening partnerships and coordination mechanisms at the local, national, regional and global levels
- Commitment, ownership and accountability to ensure sustainability

10. The participants recognized that accelerating progress on health-related Goals was closely associated with sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and with the achievement of all the Goals. The participants reaffirmed that maternal, newborn and child health was one of the most pressing challenges where globally concerted efforts were urgently needed, including delivering on promises made in the Muskoka Initiative on Maternal, Newborn and Child Health, announced at the 2010 Group of Eight summit, and realizing the ambitions of the Secretary-General Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health, while also recognizing the progress made on other health-related Goals such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria must be sustained and extended.

11. The participants reaffirmed the significance of achieving Goals 4 and 5 by identifying vulnerable and marginalized women and children, carrying out specific quality actions and strengthening the capacity and governance of health systems. They also reaffirmed how cutting-edge strategies, such as a more effective package of interventions including nutrition and reproductive health services, could be robustly and equitably delivered to the widest possible number of women and children at risk by ensuring a continuum of care from pre-pregnancy to after childbirth, as shown by "Embrace", an assistance model for maternal, newborn and child health that Japan proposed at the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, convened during the sixty-fifth session. In that regard, the participants reaffirmed that a broad approach was important, including better infrastructure, safe water and sanitation and other social developments.

12. The participants further noted that improving maternal, newborn and child health and strengthening health-care systems were also relevant and complementary to furthering efforts to address infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.

13. The participants also reaffirmed that non-communicable diseases were emerging global challenges and recognized the significance of addressing such

diseases by delivering evidence-based, cost-effective and population-wide interventions, addressing bottlenecks in the strengthening of health-care systems and achieving universal coverage.

14. The participants welcomed that there was a genuine opportunity to eradicate polio in the coming years and called for concerted urgent action to achieve eradication.

15. The participants highlighted the importance of globally concerted efforts built upon strengthening partnerships and coordination mechanisms with diverse partners, based on the notion of partner countries' ownership, greater focus on monitoring and accountability, to ensure that collective actions achieved the highest possible impact and results over the longest period of time.

Accelerating progress in education and related Goals

Issues to be highlighted

- Remarkable improvement in education has been achieved in some countries, but progress is uneven among and within countries; without accelerating actions, Goal 2 will not be achievable
- Quality education for all expands human potential, offers a strong foundation for development and poverty eradication and acts as a catalyst for the accelerated achievement of other Goals

Key elements

- Emphasis on the poor and marginalized
- Promotion of the education of girls
- Acquisition of both cognitive and non-cognitive skills
- Improvement of the quality of education with attention to learning outcomes
- Comprehensive improvement of the learning environment
- Involvement of children, parents and communities
- Focus on lifelong learning and skills development for job creation and poverty eradication
- Importance of evidence to inform policy

16. The participants recognized that remarkable progress on education had been achieved, with millions more children now in school as a result of more effective education and development policies and sustained national investments. Yet it had been uneven among and within countries and there needed to be more emphasis on the poor and marginalized, particularly those in conflict-affected countries and in emergency situations, as well as on the education of girls and on learning outcomes and the acquisition of both cognitive and non-cognitive skills, such as problem solving, teamwork and communications. The participants also concurred that there was an opportunity for peacebuilding and reconstruction through education.

17. The participants recognized the significance of improving the quality of education, increasing girls' access to and retention in schools and ensuring gender equity, starting with early childhood development, in order to achieve the education-related Goals as well as the Education for All (EFA) goals by 2015. In that regard, the participants expressed their appreciation of the outcome of the Tenth Meeting of the High-level Group on EFA, held in Jomtien, Thailand in March 2011. Improving access to and the quality of education for all was a means of expanding human potential while offering a strong foundation and catalyst for the accelerated achievement of other Goals related to health and gender, and for sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth.

18. The participants also acknowledged the importance of comprehensively improving the learning environment by, among other actions, increasing the number of well-trained teachers engaging children, parents and communities and sustaining attention beyond the enrolment and completion of courses as a means of ensuring positive learning outcomes and determining whether school leavers had the necessary knowledge and skills to obtain jobs and thrive in a competitive global economy. In addition, they reconfirmed that the effective use and allocation of resources was vital to realize improvements in education. There was a need to better identify which partnerships and coordination mechanisms would be required to achieve the desired results. To that end, it was also important to take a holistic approach to education reform by strengthening national education systems. Such reforms would entail going beyond providing inputs such as classrooms, teacher training and textbooks, to also include improving education policies, incentives and school processes to promote better learning outcomes.

19. The participants emphasized that, by identifying the bottlenecks and obstacles that hinder progress towards narrowing implementation gaps, the international community should share effective and sustainable interventions and approaches in country contexts in order to address those bottlenecks, produce concrete and sustainable results on the ground and make national education systems work. The participants therefore committed themselves to focusing their efforts on good practices, such as improving the quality of teachers and investing in the education of girls. The participants recognized that innovative approaches for education financing could strengthen such efforts in the education sector and highlighted the work of the Task Force on Innovative Financing for Education.

20. The participants also recognize that, as in health, education outcomes are greatly influenced by factors beyond education policy and services, such as early childhood nutrition and stimulation, access to health care, clean water and safe drinking water and sanitation, infrastructure and social protection.

Narrowing the implementation gap: national and community-based approaches

Issues to be highlighted

- Bottlenecks that thwart effective implementation slow progress towards achieving the Goals and must therefore be addressed at the national and local levels
- Achieving the Goals can be accelerated through a participatory analysis of bottlenecks with a partnership approach and by implementing focused plans of action that bring together the efforts of a range of stakeholders

Key elements

- Enhancement of partnerships and cooperation among various stakeholders; multisectoral, comprehensive approaches; protection and empowerment; and governance and capacity development
- Sound and evidence-based knowledge-sharing
- Nationally led, scaled-up implementation effort to remove bottlenecks at the national and local levels
- Further coordination between bilateral and multilateral cooperation efforts and diversification of stakeholders
- Partner country-led Millennium Development Goals Acceleration Framework
- People-centred approach
- Innovative approaches

21. The participants acknowledged that the presence of bottlenecks often thwarted implementation efforts aimed at accelerating the achievement of the Goals, and needed to be addressed in a coherent and coordinated manner at the national and local levels.

22. The participants acknowledged that the bottlenecks included structural shortfalls, such as poor service delivery; capacity constraints; monitoring gaps; lack of stakeholder coordination; financing; unequal progress with respect to regions, gender, ethnic groups and other factors such as disability; poverty; and displacement.

23. The participants recognized that the enhancement of partnerships and cooperation among various stakeholders, multisectoral and comprehensive approaches, protection and empowerment, and development of governance and capacity were initiatives based on people-centred approaches that were critical to the achievement of the Goals.

24. They also recognized that sound and evidence-based knowledge-sharing and nationally led, scaled-up implementation efforts with the full involvement of stakeholders would contribute to removing bottlenecks at the national and local levels, in order to accelerate the achievement of the Goals. They welcomed the further coordination between bilateral and multilateral cooperations and welcomed the diversification of actors and stakeholders, including the private sector and civil society.

25. The participants concurred that a partner country-led Millennium Development Goals Acceleration Framework building on existing knowledge, experiences, policies and planning processes at the national level was a useful tool for systematically identifying bottlenecks and possible high-impact solutions, leading to concrete action plans with coordinated roles for all stakeholders. They also proposed that the implementation of such action plans should be given priority by development partners, citing relevant examples as they became available.

26. The participants reaffirmed that a people-centred approach that emphasized human security was an effective approach to narrowing the implementation gaps towards achieving the Goals.

27. The participants recognized the need for innovative approaches, some of which had emerged in the South, such as Conditional Cash Transfers, which should be disseminated more widely.

28. The participants acknowledged that innovative financing for development had already achieved successful results in the health sector. Nonetheless, much more needed to be done, including in other sectors. The participants recognized the value of exploring new innovative finance mechanisms and strengthening and scaling-up existing ones, where appropriate, given their potential to contribute to the achievement of the Goals, while acknowledging that such mechanisms should supplement rather than substitute traditional sources of finance. The participants welcomed the ongoing work in that regard, including by the Leading Group on Innovative Financing for Development and the Task Force on International Financial Transactions for Development.

Partnership for sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth

Issues to be highlighted

- Importance of sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and the significance of achieving that growth through development cooperation
- Need to strengthen partnerships among development actors in order to use different resources effectively to maximize impact

Key elements

- Utmost importance of national ownership and leadership in the development process
- Catalytic role of development cooperation in achieving economic growth
- Vital role of development cooperation in building a foundation on which to create opportunities for more people to participate in and benefit from the growth process
- Respect for ownership, focus on development results and incorporation of environmental and debt sustainability
- Need for strong, responsible, transparent and accountable partnerships among actors
- Productive capacity-building as a development multiplier
- Importance of incorporating environmental sustainability in achieving sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth

29. The participants reaffirmed the importance of sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth in achieving the Goals. They recognized that national development strategies formulated under developing countries' ownership and leadership is of the utmost importance in achieving such growth and underscored the significance of domestic resources. In that connection, the participants expressed that the Seoul Development Consensus for Shared Growth and its Multi-Year Action Plan, adopted by the Group of Twenty at its Seoul Summit in November 2010, would contribute to the global efforts to achieve sustained, inclusive and equitable growth.

30. The participants reaffirmed their commitment to the global partnership for development and recalled the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development and the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development.

31. The participants reiterated that a number of distinct resources and factors had vital roles in realizing sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, such as the domestic resources of developing countries; investment and trade; official development assistance; South-South cooperation; contributions from international and regional institutions; innovative financing for development; and assistance from the private sector, including foundations and civil society organizations. The participants stressed that all actors had the means to reduce global poverty and that the partnership between recipient countries and development actors must be strong, responsible, transparent and accountable. In that regard, the participants welcomed the efforts undertaken by the Group of Eight to produce the Deauville Accountability Report.

32. The participants concurred that development cooperation could play a catalytic role in achieving economic growth, by supporting the efforts of developing countries in establishing economic and social infrastructure and building productive capacity, thus attracting private investment, promoting trade and transferring technology and know-how. Further acknowledgement and encouragement should be particularly given to efforts to promote economic growth that include South-South, triangular and regional cooperation mechanisms for access to technologies, knowledge and information.

33. The participants agreed that development cooperation played a vital role in supporting the efforts of developing countries to build a foundation on which to create sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth opportunities for greater numbers of people. They also recognized the importance of enhanced education and health for all as a means of realizing such growth, through concrete measures including the provision of health, education and food security assistance to the vulnerable, strengthening governance and individual and institutional capacity development.

34. In order to achieve positive development results, development cooperation should respect developing countries' ownership of such measures and align itself with national development policy. Environmental and debt sustainability should also be incorporated.

35. The participants recognized the importance of incorporating environmental sustainability in achieving sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth.

Cross-cutting issues

Climate change

Issues to be highlighted

- There is a deep and complex interconnection between the adverse effects of climate change and other global challenges
- Climate change should be properly addressed in the process of successfully achieving the Goals, especially Goal 7 on environmental sustainability

Key elements

- Climate change is one of the most pressing common challenges of the century and requires a global and coordinated response
- The issues of climate change and development must be comprehensively tackled
- Cooperation for sustainable and low-carbon growth should be promoted

36. The participants recognized that climate change was one of the most pressing common challenges of the century and required a global and coordinated response that reaffirmed the objectives and principles of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in particular the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

37. The participants also recognized that there was a deep and complex interconnection between the adverse effects of climate change and other global challenges, such as poverty, food security, growing inequality and increased natural disasters. In that context, the participants emphasized the need to comprehensively tackle the issue of climate change in the process of successfully achieving the Goals, especially Goal 7 on environmental sustainability.

38. The participants shared the view that climate change had serious adverse effects on developing countries, especially least developed countries, small island developing States, Africa and marginalized communities and nations, and that those effects negatively influenced the achievement of the Goals. In that regard, the participants reaffirmed that concerted efforts by the international community were needed to bring a successful conclusion to the seventeenth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The participants agreed to intensify cooperation leading up to the Conference of the Parties and would enhance cooperation in order to adapt their economies and societies to meet the challenge of climate change and to achieve deep cuts in global greenhouse gas emissions.

39. The participants stressed the importance of expeditious and steady implementation of fast-start financing on climate change and welcomed such implementations by certain countries as well as initiatives to promote sustainable and low-carbon growth, such as the low-carbon growth and sustainable development

strategy in Africa, part of the Tokyo International Conference on African Development process.

Food security

Issues to be highlighted

- Continuing volatility of global food prices that increases poverty and hunger and poses a serious obstacle to achieving the Goals
- Need to address food security issues by harnessing experiences, including lessons learned from the 2008 rise in global food prices and past successful experiences

Key elements

- Promote efforts based on the Five Rome Principles for Sustainable Global Food Security
- Strengthen the capacity of food supply, focusing on the most vulnerable populations, such as smallholder farmers and women
- Promote comprehensive support based on a value-chain analysis and innovative approaches
- Address the issues of nutrition, health, education, biodiversity and access to water and sanitation, and promote well-designed and gender-specific social protection systems

40. The participants reaffirmed the importance of promoting efforts based on the Rome Principles, implementing the L'Aquila Food Security Initiative agreed at the 2009 meeting of the Group of Eight, held in L'Aquila, Italy, and the Group of Twenty multi-year action plan on development, as well as advancing the Global Partnership for Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition to address the key challenges to sustainable food security. They particularly stressed the importance of pursuing a "twin-track approach" that aimed at both targeting hunger and stimulating agricultural productivity, in response to the lessons learned from the continuing global food price volatility and past successful experiences.

41. The participants re-emphasized the significance of strengthening the capacity of food supply in order to address the issues of poverty and hunger, focusing on smallholder farmers and women, who are the most vulnerable and insecure populations.

42. The participants also underlined the significance of promoting comprehensive support for an increase in production and productivity, the reduction of post-harvest losses and the improvement of market and trade systems through, among others, capacity-building based on a value-chain analysis. The participants also reaffirmed the importance of enhancing innovative systems and approaches.

43. The participants acknowledged the vital importance of cost-effective and cross-sectoral interventions that address the issues of nutrition, health, education, biodiversity and access to water and sanitation, and that promote well-designed and

gender-specific social protection systems, such as school meals, food-for-work, mother and child health care and nutrition programmes for building resilience.

Human security

Issues to be highlighted

Human security may contribute to the achievement of the Goals

Key elements

- Comprehensive collaboration among stakeholders
- Participation of communities, particularly the poor and marginalized

44. The participants commended the people-centred approach of the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security as a laudable initiative towards the achievement of the Goals.

45. The participants stressed the right of people to live in freedom and dignity, free from poverty and despair. They also recognized that all individuals, particularly vulnerable populations, are entitled to freedom from fear and from want, and to equal opportunities to enjoy all their rights and fully develop their human potential.

46. The participants took note of the ongoing efforts to define the notion of human security referred to in General Assembly resolution 64/291, and recognized that human security might contribute to the achievement of the Goals through comprehensive collaboration among stakeholders and by ensuring sustainability and providing quality service delivery.

47. The participants recognized the importance of focusing on the needs of individuals in order to achieve the Goals. They also agreed that the participation of communities, particularly the poor and marginalized, was essential to the process of development.

The way forward

Orchestrating our efforts

48. The participants welcomed the fact that discussions on achieving the Goals, including poverty eradication, had been and would be held, including: at the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals; the Secretary-General's Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health; meetings of the Group of Eight and of the Group of Twenty; at the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries; at the 2012 Conference to mark the 20th anniversary of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development; on the Education for All initiative; at sessions of the Economic and Social Council; at meetings of the Leading Group on Innovative Financing for Development; and by regional organizations such as the African Union and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. The participants acknowledged the importance of linking relevant ongoing global processes in order to achieve

concerted international efforts to meet common challenges. In particular, they stressed that the Fourth High-level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, to be held in November 2011 in Busan, Republic of Korea, would be an important opportunity to re-galvanize political momentum to reach the Goals.

49. The participants stressed that all actors have the means to reduce global poverty and are responsible for initiating action for progress. The participants emphasized that all actors and stakeholders, from developed or developing countries, should have a say in shaping and influencing the direction of the international policy debate on poverty eradication through various forums and should mobilize resources for its realization. The participants agreed that the partnerships between those actors needed to be further enhanced in order to reinvigorate the political momentum towards the achievement of the Goals.

50. The participants recommended that a partner country-led Millennium Development Goals Acceleration Framework be developed to build on existing country knowledge, experiences, national policies and planning processes, and that it be applied wherever most appropriate.

51. The participants further recommended that the implementation of the resulting acceleration action plans, including those completed in 2010, be given priority wherever appropriate by development partners in their current plans, operations and processes.

Renewing the consensus for longer terms

52. The participants reaffirmed that the achievement of the Goals by 2015 was one of the most compelling global objectives. Even after 2015, poverty eradication must remain a focus of the international community. All stakeholders needed to redouble their efforts towards achieving the Goals.

53. The participants acknowledged that challenges such as climate change, the insecurity of food and other resources and disasters of unusual scale and nature had persisted since the establishment of the Goals and should be tackled by all stakeholders together. The participants also acknowledged that the importance of achieving well-being for all could not be overstressed and that equity, mutual support and sustainability would be guiding principles in the rapidly changing global landscape.

54. The participants concurred that it was imperative to focus on growth in the remaining period for attaining the Goals and beyond 2015. The participants agreed that growth was not an end in itself, but a means to pursue all aspects of the well-being of humanity. In that context, growth should be viewed and pursued in a sustained, inclusive and equitable manner and, in so doing, the capacity of Governments, institutions and individuals needed to be strengthened, including increased transparency and accountability and the more effective use of resources.

55. Takeaki Matsumoto, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan and the Chair of the meeting, greatly appreciated the constructive contributions by the representatives of Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Ethiopia, France, Ghana, India, Norway, the Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Spain, Thailand, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Asian Development Bank, the Asian Development Bank Institute, the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the International Planned

Parenthood Federation, the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, the United Nations Population Fund, the World Food Programme and Oxfam International, and particularly the co-organizers, UNDP, UNICEF, the World Bank and the Japan International Cooperation Agency, which were instrumental in improving the Chair's statement.

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Agenda item 163
Appointment of the Secretary-General of the United Nations

Letter dated 17 June 2011 from the President of the Security Council to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to inform you that the Security Council, at its 6556th meeting, held in private on 17 June 2011, adopted by acclamation resolution 1987 (2011) concerning the appointment of the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The resolution reads as follows:

"The Security Council,

Having considered the question of the recommendation for the appointment of the Secretary-General of the United Nations,

Recommends to the General Assembly that Mr. Ban Ki-moon be appointed Secretary-General of the United Nations for a second term of office from 1 January 2012 to 31 December 2016."

(*Signed*) Noël Nelson **Messone**

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